FAMILY WORSHIP;

A COURSE OF

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS

FOR

EVERY DAY IN THE MONTH.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,

A DISCOURSE

ON

FAMILY RELIGION.

By JAMES BEAN, M. A.
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AND LECTURER OF WELBECK CHAPEL.

"THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL SAITH, THEM THAT HONOUR ME WILL HONOUR," 1 SAM. ii. 30.

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ON FAMILY RELIGION.

TRUE piety is a principle, which leads a man to honour God in every thing. It will have an influence upon him abroad, and at home; in society, and in solitude; upon common, as well as extraordinary occasions.

It is this principle which leads a Christian to exercise a religious care over his family. And in this part of his conduct he shows, not only the devout state of his affections, but likewise the soundness of his judgment. Every wise man sees the necessity of having some plan of domestic government, in order to preserve his house from being a scene of confusion and misery. And by what expedient can a Christian better accomplish this purpose, than by endeavouring, that every

member of his family may feel the force of those principles, by which he himself is made holy and happy.

It is easy to imagine how men of true piety will fill up this outline. In some particulars they may vary from each other; but there is one ancient and godly custom, which unquestionably will have a chief place with them all, in the order of their households: I mean, the regular performance of religious worship.

The arguments in support of family religion lie in a small compass. They are at the same time so obvious to a serious Christian, that it may almost seem unnecessary to insist upon them. It is scarcely possible that a man, conversant with the Holy Scriptures, and truly concerned for the temporal and eternal interests of those who are under his care, can doubt of its being his duty to worship God in his family. With such a person, the commendation given to * Abraham will have the force of an express injunction.

* Gen. xviii. 19.

Moreover, how reasonable a thing is it, that God should be honoured in that community, which derives all its comforts from him. In a family, there are mercies received from God, of which all the members are equal partakers. How fit and becoming a thing is it then, that all the members should join in acts of devout homage, to their common protector and benefactor.

The assembling every day to worship the supreme Being, has a tendency to produce the happiest effects, in forming the conduct of our domestics. To recall the attention of a family frequently to God, tends to impress the members of it, with an idea of his authority, and of their dependence upon his providence. It holds forth religion to them, as a duty, not of occasional, but daily obligation. The constant reading of the Holy Scriptures, the frequent imploring of the pardon of sin, and petitioning for grace to act aright toward God and man, imperceptibly convey into their minds, a knowledge of the duties which they owe to God, to themselves, and to each other.

Accordingly, we find, that where religious order prevails in families, there, a knowledge of right and wrong obtains; and although evil passions occasionally discover themselves, we do not see their *unrestrained* voilence: the good effects of daily instruction, and daily worship, are manifest in the tempers and conduct of the domestics, amidst all their imperfections.

On the other hand, in those houses in which instruction is never heard, nor any act of devotion seen, we observe a deplorable ignorance of moral obligation. We therefore cannot wonder, that there should be so general a complaint of the behaviour of servants: for what means are there employed in many families to teach them their duty? How unlikely is it, that there should be a steady obedience rendered to man, where the fear of God is not inculcated, either by precept, or example!

If therefore we consult merely our own comfort, the best course we can pursue, is to tread in the steps of those godly men, whose houses were consecrated, by the daily performance of family worship. The comfort of

families is so effectually destroyed by careless, idle, unfaithful, and dissolute servants; that a remedy for this serious and increasing evil, would be generally accounted a very great benefit to the public. But there is no reason to believe that a radical cure will be obtained, till the almost exploded piety of former times is revived; by making religious instruction and worship a stated observance in our houses.

But there is another consideration, which ought to have great weight with us. The regard we should pay to the welfare of *society at large*, obliges us to employ all those means which tend to the cultivation of religious principle. Families are the nurseries of the state. Parents, magistrates, senators, ministers of religion, were once children in a family; and have probably brought with them into their important stations, a strong tincture of the habits which prevailed, where they spent their tender years. We retain the impressions which we receive in early life; and if they be not favourable to virtue, their corrupt influence may be traced in the actions of a riper period. Licentious children become ungo-

vernable men. From not being habituated, when children, to reverence God and eternal things, men are frequently found to grow up with an heathenish insensibility in matters of religion: an insensibility which they discover, amidst all the improvements they derive from a polite and liberal education. When to such persons a moral trust is committed, it is easy to conjecture how it will be discharged.

A man who has a truly christian mind, feels a benevolent concern for the interest of society; and he will have a regard to this, in the management of those who are committed to his care. He will make it his business to send them forth into the world, *well principled*; that when they are added to the mass of the people, they may communicate to it a correcting influence, calculated to diminish, and not to augment, the too great quantity of evil which pervades it. Now if a man can devise a better method of doing this, than by the regular discharge of religious instruction and worship in his family, let him, for the benefit of society, acquaint the world with it; for it will be a valuable discovery.

A man may excuse himself from the duty here recommended, by saying, "I am not "inattentive to the religious and moral im- "provement of my family; I always go to "church on a Sunday, and I oblige my do- "mestics to attend with me; and this I "think sufficient for their knowing and prac- "tising their duty, if they are so inclined." But is no advantage to be expected from doing *every day* something that has a tendency to promote the best interests of our fellow-creatures? Nay, is not this indispensably necessary?

It is no inconsiderable interval that occurs between one Sunday and another: an interval long enough for many and various temptations to operate upon our disordered nature. And shall we let the most inexperienced and incautious part of our family pass all this time, without performing any act that tends to counterwork the continual presence and influence of evil.

But without taking into our account the dangerous influence to which our domestics are exposed,—we should remmember, that the

longer the interval is, which occurs between the seasons of instruction, the more likely we are to lose the good impression, which that instruction may make. It is to be wished therefore, that there were some methods taken to prevent this loss. Family worship answers the purpose; for it recalls our minds to God: It serves to renew the impression of those great truths which were set before us in public worship; but which, with all their importance, we are too prone to forget.

It may be useful to notice in this place an error, which I fear is too general. There are many who conceive, that the whole of the business for which seasons of puplic prayer and teaching were ordained, is done within the walls of the church: whereas it is but *begun* there; and must be *finished* at home. The work upon which the *parochial instructor* is employed, must pass from his hands, into those of the several *family instructors*.

Happy (if they know their advantages) are those, who have a well-informed and faithful pastor, to dispense God's holy word and sacraments to them. *Nothing that is profitable*

will he keep back from them *. He will not fail to set before them all those blessed truths, which relate to the redemption of mankind. He will endeavour to excite them to a becoming regard to those truths. Longing to see his people partakers of the comforts of Christianity, he will not exhort them, merely in a general way, to the practice of its duties; but will particularly show what is incumbent on them, in their respective states and relations.

Much further than this *he* cannot proceed; but the *work* must proceed, or the labour already bestowed on it may be lost.

There is great reason to believe, that though his discourses may have produced very serious impressions, while he was delivering them, the desires which were excited by them will die away: unless cherished by some further application of truth to the mind. The seed which has been sown, must not be left to itself: it must be watched; it must be watered; in order that it may bring forth

* Acts xx. 20.

fruit. To these things, the individuals who hear the word of God, must attend for themselves. To these, the masters of families are bound to attend, for the good of those who are committed to their care. He, therefore, who from christian principles endeavours to *provide for those of his own household*, follows the Sower, not only with his private prayers, but with such family exercises, as tend to guard and cherish the precious seed that has been sown.

Where these duties are wisely and diligently performed, the public instructor rejoices in seeing the fruit of his labours. But what fruit of them is he likely to discover among those families, in which the domestics neither hear nor see any thing that is calculated to remind them of the public worship, or that does any way correspond with it? The servant will think (if he think at all on the subject) that religion consists in nothing but going to church; for he sees nothing more in his master's religion.

Children and servants are influenced by what is *always* addressing itself to them.

They judge of things, not from what one man says, one day in a week; but from what every person is saying, every day. The customs, the habits of a family, are the things which form their opinions, and their character; and if among these, there be no act which is intended to do honour to religion, there is not only nothing done to *carry on* the design of public instruction, but many things which will *defeat* that design; even though not so intended.

It is from neglecting to follow public with private instruction, among other causes, that a standing ministry in the church does not produce all the good effects, for which it was ordained. They who object to this institution, should consider the limits of the public instructor's power; and in estimating the useful tendency of his office, they ought to allow for the failure of those, who should take up the duty, for which he is set apart, at that point, beyond which he cannot proceed.

The true minister of Christ is ever labouring to bring masters of families to carry the

work of instruction into their own province. It is not a crouded auditory that satisfies him. He will be ready to weep over the multitudes he views from the pulpit, if he know, that though they seem to hang upon his lips, there is at home, no altar, no priest, no sacrifice, nor one true sign of genuine piety to be found. He estimates his usefulness in his pastoral character, not merely by the number of his hearers; but by the practical effect which his discourses have on them. And among other enquiries, in order to ascertain this effect, he endeavours to know, whether there be any family religion among them. When he sees religion in their houses, he has reason to conclude, it has properly affected their hearts; and that, not only they, but *their children after them*, may partake of the benefit of his earnest endeavours: But while religion is absent *there*, he considers, that however he may be commended as a preacher, he has reason to doubt whether, after all, his labours have produced any great effect upon his hearers.

Such being the importance of family religion, it is hoped, that no person who has

any just pretensions to piety, will be deterred from the duty he owes to his domestics, by the *ridicule* he may incur, in reviving that antient and godly custom which is here enforced.

Is it becoming a man of sense and seriousness, to suffer himself to be stopped in the prosecution of what he knows to be reasonable—of what he believes will increase the honour due unto God, the improvement and happiness of his children and servants, and the benefit of society, by the derision of some thoughtless observer, who never sat down seriously to consider, what he chooses to ridicule?

We should stand prepared to meet with christian firmness, that overbearing spirit of banter, which attempts to put every thing grave and serious out of countenance. Let us arm ourselves against it; by considering, that it is scarcely possible to be well employed, and at the same time to escape its attack. How inglorious is it, to surrender in a good cause, to such an antagonist!

The most solemn and approved things may be made sport of, by some; but let us consider, how they are regarded by other observers. Is it not a beautiful sight to see a pious man collect his domestics around him—open his Bible—read distinctly and reverently a portion of that holy book—and then kneeling down with them, thankfully acknowledge the blessings which he and his family have received, and humbly implore the continuance of the divine mercy? This, however it may be misrepresented by vain and thoughtless men, is, without doubt, in the eye of God and his angels, a dignified spectacle.

The remainder of this Address shall consist of a few hints to those, who are resolved on the practice of Family Worship.

In the first place, let the master of a house remember, that the more pleasantly family worship is conducted, the better: provided, that in endeavouring to render it agreeable, we do not let it sink to the level of an unmeaning observance. To prevent irksomeness, long services should be avoided.

A well-chosen hour for family prayer, is of great importance. An hour, at which the greatest number can attend, which is least liable to interruption, and at which the members are most capable of attention, is the hour to be chosen. To call to Morning Prayers before half the family is risen, or not till after the hour of business commences; or to call to Evening Prayers after supper, are errors, which in a great measure defeat the end of assembling for religious worship.

The hour being fixed, let it never be varied, but through inevitable necessity. Punctuality is essential to order.

If the method of worship observed in a family be of the liturgical kind, let the master train his domestics to join in the parts which they have to sustain. The beauty of alternate worship is lost, when the congregational parts are not well supported *.

* The author has some reasons for recommending a liturgical form of worship in families. The reader will find these reasons in a note, subjoined to the Family Liturgy, at the end of the book.

I have all along taken it for granted, that the Holy Scriptures are read, where Family Worship is performed. But I cannot help observing, that I have known this omitted, where prayer was regularly offered up. The constant omission of this, is certainly a great deficiency. The reading a moderate portion of Scripture, cannot add many minutes to the length of the service. And it is to be recommended, on many accounts: it is doing honour to the Holy Scriptures, in the sight of our household; it prevents those who neglect reading them in private, from being entirely ignorant of them; and it serves to give those who read them without sufficient deliberation or judgment, an impression of the weight and force of what is contained in them.

In the discharge of so sacred a duty as that of religious worship, every thing is of importance. The *manner*, therefore, in which it is performed, by him who conducts it, deserves some consideration. Let it be free from such habits as convey an idea of want of reverence, such as provoke risibility, dissipate attention, or leave a repulsive impression on the minds of those who join in the worship. De-

livery ought to be particularly attended to: If it be slovenly, vociferous, precipitate, or whining, it ill befits the act, either of administering religious instruction, or presenting the sacrifice of prayer. Let him who leads in family worship, be concerned to render it both solemn and engaging. For this purpose, one could wish, that on such an occasion, his countenance, his tone of voice, his whole deportment, were expressive of unfeigned piety, good sense, benignity, and happiness.

To the due performance of all the duties which this paper aims to enforce, there is one thing which I conceive to be very essential. It is this: that the master of a family consider himself, as the *Minister of God to his household.* I would exhort him to cherish this idea of himself: and to pray earnestly to GOD, that he may, with all humility, act up to this character. If he be desirous of so doing, he will be ready to take advantage of every circumstance that occurs in his family, by which he may seriously affect the minds of those who live with him. Such an opportunity is afforded by a casualty, a remarkable escape from some impending evil, sickness, recovery,

or death. These are instructive events: and he should be ready to accompany them with something in his Family Worship, suited to improve, to the best purposes, the impressions which such things make on the minds of his household. To assist him herein, he will, in the following pages, find prayers adapted to such interesting occasions.

But I must beg my reader to consider, whether he may not go a step farther, in acting as a minister of GOD in his family. Why should he not be desirous of being useful to his friend, as well as to his child, or his servant? Philanthropy as well as piety dictates this to him. A visitor is, for the time he spends under our roof, a part of our family; and he ought to share in that peculiar concern, which (without any prejudice to universal benevolence) we should have for those, with whom we are more intimately connected. It is worthy of a Christian, to receive his friend with a secret wish, that their intercourse may not consist merely in the usual civilities, as if neither of them had any thing to do with what relates to GOD, or a future state; but that his guest, as well as himself,

may receive benefit from the visit, in the article of religion: that infinitely important point, with respect to which, we should always endeavour to be of service to each other.

Among our visitors there may be one, who has been so unhappily educated, as never to have been present at the performance of family worship; and to him, such an observance may appear merely a kind of sectarian singularity. This is a case which peculiarly calls for that benevolent concern, I have been recommending. On the arrival of such a person, I have known the family worship to be suspended. But far be such a mean accommodation, from the conduct of a true Christian! No! let the stranger see how we live—what regard we pay to an invisible eye—and where we ground our best hopes. Let us keep his good in view; and hope, that by joining in the worship of the family, he will perceive that it is a thing not merely to be borne with, but to be imitated. If indeed, there be any prayers in this collection which seem more *intelligible* than the rest to such a person, they may be used at the commencement of the visit. Further than this, it may not be advisable to

carry the spirit of accommodation. We should be cautious of practising such compliances, as a frivolous politeness may suggest; for they are seldom of that kind as to be compatible with christian simplicity. Nor does *true benevolence* allow them; however amiable they may appear to superficial judges: For they tend to deprive society of one of the greatest means of its improvement; the power of good example. The religious man who is betrayed into them, loses those definite marks of character, by which a Christian ought to be *known and read of all men*; and by which, without assuming any thing, he holds forth an instructive and important lesson to his neighbour.

The necessity of maintaining, on all occasions, the force of good example, is a consideration of such consequence, that I must beg leave to address some further observation on this head, to those who have the care of a family. The regular performance of religious worship in their houses, does not include the whole of this obligation. Nay, if it be not accompanied with the discharge of other duties incumbent on him who presents it, the

observance itself, worthy as it is of being held in reverential estimation by all who join with him in it, will be in danger of incurring their aversion and contempt. Let me therefore remind the person who leads it, of the necessity of supporting its credit, by a holy consistency of conduct, in the general tenor of his life.

Where family worship is regularly observed, and its credit is supported by a holy life, a steady conduct, prudent management of temporal affairs, upright dealings, and amiable tempers, on the part of him who leads it, there can be no doubt of its proving beneficial to himself, to his domestics, and to society. Some persons endeavour to prove the inutility of family worship, by alledging the bad courses taken by the children of some families, in which this observance has not been neglected. The facts, were they just such as the objectors state them to be, would perhaps only prove, (what no one disputes) that though we can give our children good instructions, and set before them good examples, we cannot give them good dispositions.

It is an affecting truth, that even where great pains have been taken to train children in the *fear of God*; we sometimes find the World triumphing over the Instructor; bearing away, by the force of its allurements, the well-tutored child, in defiance of the counsels, the example, and the prayers, of a wise and good parent. It must be allowed likewise, that the bad courses which some religiously educated children have taken, are to be accounted for, in a great measure, from the want of correspondency between the profession and the life—the prayers and the practice of the parent.

Among those who profess themselves Christians, we meet with persons whose religion is destitute of consistency. Such is the case with those, who though they have prayers in their families, do not accompany these acts of devotion with the maintenance of order, or the firm and temperate exercise of parental authority. Among such persons, there is frequently found, a great deficiency in the article of *instruction*; some favourite points of christian truth are perhaps vehemently urged; while others, of equal consequence,

are entirely neglected. Children are taught to know the features of a heresy; but sound principles of *conduct* are never inculcated. In a loose and general way, perhaps, the parent sometimes speaks of the consequences of vice; but does not mark, with sufficient earnestness, the various forms under which it may appear; nor does he keep a watchful eye over the tempers, the employments, or the connections of his children; or set before them, in his own conduct, the example of a sober, steady, and upright character. Who can be surprised, if the son of such a man turn out a libertine! If nothing has passed before that young man, as an exhibition of religion, but his father's example; what has he seen, to make him reverence religion? He has seen something, which falling in with his own depravity, may lead him to despise it; and if he be a sufferer through his father's misconduct, who can wonder if he hate religion.

But let not such an instance be brought to prove the inutility of domestic worship. The proper improvement of the fact, is to learn, how little good is to be expected, and how much mischief may ensue, from a *spurious* kind of religion.

Let the profligate courses which the children of inconsistent religionists have taken, urge us to take heed, that we fall not into the error of their parents. Let us, neither in our profession, nor practice, present a *part* of religion to our family; but the whole of it. Let there be a mixture of devotion, instruction, government, and example, in the superintendence of a family. Let these go hand in hand; and while they support each other, they will give stability and comfort to the house in which they are exercised. It will be the abode of peace. In the superiors, will be seen, authority tempered with kindness; among the inferiors, sobriety, fidelity, industry and frugality; among them all, goodwill to each other will be visible: notwithstanding that, through the frailty of human nature, there may be occasional interruptions of that harmony, which the religious government of a family tends to produce.

It only remains, that some account be given of the following performance. I do not know, that the offering a book of prayers to the public needs any apology; notwithstanding there are already so many excellent

compositions of this kind. Allowing to those who have gone before me in this kind of writing, all the praise to which they are entitled; I cannot but be of opinion, that there may be occasion for new compositions. There are no books perhaps, in the choice of which, we are more regulated by a taste of our own, than books of devotion. Here, especially, a man is apt to prefer the composition of a writer, whose turn of mind is congenial with his own. I have been much encouraged to proceed, in what is now offered to the public, by this consideration; I have thought, that from this circumstance, my book, defective as it is in some respects, may be the means of introducing religious worship into families, in which that duty has been hitherto neglected.

But I will not attempt to reason my readers into an approbation of my design. I trust that I may say, I have sought the good of mankind. I have aimed likewise at the honour of God in this undertaking; and to that adorable Being, whose glory it is designed to promote, I commit it.

The compositions are all of them original. To effect some kind of variety, most of them are made on particular subjects; in the choice of which, no systematic arrangement was designed. Nothing more was attempted, than merely to comprehend the principle duties, trials, and temptations of common life.

The reader will perceive, that there are but few prayers "for all states." Instead of bringing all the usual subjects of prayer before a family, every time they assemble for worship, I have endeavoured to distribute them among the sixty prayers which are composed for the month. This appears to me to be a method more edifying to our domestics, than the comprehending all states in every prayer. For by this method, we may enlarge more on any particular subject; and thus give it more importance in the eyes of those who join in the worship. By returning less frequently, and being longer dwelt upon, the subject attracts more attention, than if it were hastily passed over every day.

That the domestics of a family may be duly affected with a sense of the duties which

they owe to those who are in authority, is one reason which has determined the author not to make mention of *them* in every prayer. He endeavours to infuse a spirit of loyalty into a family, by appropriating one season of family devotion entirely to this subject. By this method, he conceives (even should the prayer occur but once in a month) that the members of a family would learn more of what they owe to their Prince, and be much more impressed with a conviction that it is a christian duty to pray for him, than by his being mentioned only in a short sentence, in every day's prayer.

May it please the God of all grace, to accompany this humble attempt to promote the practice of domestic piety, with his blessing; disposing the hearts of parents and masters to delight in imparting religious instruction to their children and servants. May their instruction be illustrated and adorned, by their holy example. May the morning and evening sacrifice of prayer and praise be offered up in every family to the GOD of our salvation, and his blessing descend and rest on all the members; purifying their hearts, sup-

porting them under their trials, uniting them more and more to each other in the bonds of christian charity, and affording them the refreshing foretastes of that glorious state, in which the blessed GOD will be worshipped with the most profound adoration, and the sublimest strains of praise.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

EIGHTH EDITION.

IN this Edition of "Family Worship," I have added a Prayer relating to *Baptism*, more appropriate to this solemnity, than any one contained in the former editions of the work. I have added likewise, Prayers referring to the *Rite of Confirmation*, and to the solemnization of *Matrimony*. At page 285, there is another additional Prayer, entitled, "*A Prayer to be used by a Mother* "*with her Children, before they begin their daily* "*Tasks.*"

The last-mentioned addition I cannot introduce, without advising the use of this, or some other form of the like import, to those parents, whose children are educated at home. An act of this kind will not interfere with the performance of religious worship, in company with the entire household; and it seems calculated to impress the minds of children, with such a sense of the transcendant importance of Religion, as they are never likely to lose. When we consider further, that the piety of adult life has, in so many instances, been traced to the religious customs made use of during Childhood, Parents

have the sanction of experience, to encourage the hope of that blessing from above, which God has in the Scriptures taught them to expect, in endeavouring to train their children in the fear of his holy name.

Let me then intreat every mother, as she would wish to see her dear offspring preserved from that indifference to Christianity, which is too visible in many places, where there is yet no want of attention to the other branches of Education, to make it a rule, daily to begin the business of instruction, by leading the minds of her children to that great subject, on a devout attention to which, their happiness, their usefulness, and their salvation depend.

The *Prayer relating to the present Times*, is likewise, I trust, no unnecessary addition to the work. The extraordinary nature of the period, appeared to require something of this kind. I have not succeeded to my own satisfaction, in this endeavour to supply the christian mind with a form for the expression of its devout wishes. It is nevertheless inserted; in hope that it may at least answer the purpose of leading many to contemplate the extraordinary events of the present day, with a reference to HIM, who is able to give any direction to the course of human affairs, which shall seem fit to his infinite wisdom; and who encourages those who reverence him, to hope that ALL THINGS SHALL WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD.

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*** *The reader is desired to take notice, that all those sentences in the following prayers, which are printed in italics, are quotations from the Holy Scriptures.*

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FIRST WEE

SUNDAY MORNING *.

A Prayer for the Presence of God *in public Worship.*

O MOST holy God, we are weak and sinful creatures; and could not presume to approach thee, had not thou revealed thyself as a God of mercy in and through thy dear Son. Encouraged by thy gracious promises, and the mediation of our blessed Advocate, we humbly draw near to thee; *unworthy* as we are *of the least of all thy mercies.*

Accept our thanksgivings, most gracious God, for all the means, and all the oppor-

* To this and the following prayer, a passage applicable to the Holy Communion is annexed. There are also two prayers in this work which refer *wholly* to that solemnity. See the 1st. and 2d of the occasional prayers.

which thou hast afforded us for the of our souls.

We bless thee, O Lord, for setting apart a day of holy rest. We stand in need of being frequently called away from the affairs of the present life; for we are too forgetful of the infinite concerns of the life to come.

We are bound to thank thee, not only for appointing, but also for *preserving* to us the day of rest: for it is through thy good providence that the sabbath is still observed. Hereby a season of instruction in things of everlasting consequence is afforded to us.

With unfeigned thankfulness would we acknowledge thy goodness to us, in renewing the opportunities of benefiting by this merciful institution, by bringing us safely to the beginning of this holy day. Now, O Lord, we beseech thee, to give us grace to improve the day to its religious purposes.

With shame we own, that we have suffered former opportunities of this kind to pass unimproved; but, O let it not be so to day. Instead of losing another sabbath, may we endeavour to redeem those which we have already lost: For we know not whether this may not be our last.

We are going to thy house; give us grace, O Lord, to approach thy presence with the deepest reverence. Let us *draw near to thee not only with our lips, but with our hearts also.* Too often, alas! have we contented ourselves with the *form of godliness*; this day let us *worship thee in spirit and in truth.*

When we confess our sins, may we perform the duty with a *contrite heart.* When we sing thy praise, may *all that is within us bless thy holy name.* Let true devotion accompany the words of prayer. And may we, through thy merciful regard to our petitions, draw down blessings upon our king, our country, our churches, our families, ourselves, and all for whom we pray.

Bless the instructions we may receive this day. Let *our hearts stand in awe of thy word.* May we hear it likewise with thankfulness: blessing thee for its precepts, as well as its promises.

Glory be to thy name, O Lord, for the *glad tidings of salvation,* which thou hast sent unto us. We are not standing at the foot of Mount Sinai, from whence the most awful sounds were heard; but *through the tender mercy of our God, we are come to Mount Sion;* where guilty sinners hear the name of JESUS, and are encouraged to approach thee, by that atoning *blood which speaketh better things than the blood of Abel.*

O suffer us not to be inattentive to thy voice. May we listen to it with all humility. May we treasure up thy gracious words in our hearts; and may their holy and happy influence be seen in our daily conversation.

Assist all thy servants, O Lord, who

minister in holy things this day; and especially him who laboureth among us. May the grace of thy Holy Spirit be upon him, both in offering up the prayers of the congregation, and in dispensing thy word; and let thy blessing attend all his labours.

And may all the messengers of our blessed Saviour be successful, in endeavouring to gather and edify that flock, which the *chief Shepherd purchased with his precious blood* *.

* *The following addition for a Sacrament Day may be introduced here.*

We humbly pray thee, to bless all those, who shall, this day, approach the table of our blessed Lord, to commemorate his great love to us. While they are partaking of the elements which represent his precious body and blood, may their hearts be deeply affected with the consideration of his cross and passion. May they remember their sins, with true contrition of heart; and the love of that Redeemer who shed his blood for their remission, with the most lively thankfulness. May they be enabled to feed, by faith, on him, *who gave his flesh for the life of the world;* and may they return from his table with hearts full of love to God, and good-will toward men.

These mercies, for ourselves, and for others, we humbly ask in the name of our only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Thanksgiving for the Means of Grace.

O KING of glory, king of righteousness and peace, help us with all humility and reverence to *bow the knee to thee.* May we willingly and joyfully honour thee: and "*acknowledge thee to be the Lord,*" not only with our lips, but by a life devoted to thy service.

We would close this day of mercy, Most Blessed God, with praise and prayer. We thank thee for the opportunity given to us of attending to the *things which belong to our peace.* We thank thee, that we have

heard *the joyful sound* of thy gospel; those *glad tidings*, which proclaim *comfort to them that mourn, liberty to the captive, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.*

Let thy word, O Lord, *run and be glorified. Let thy way be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.* And may the *God of hope fill those* who hear the word of salvation, *with all joy and peace in believing.*

We take pleasure in recollecting, that numerous assemblies of Christian worshippers have been held this day, in different parts of the world. Ever do thou incline our hearts to pity those who neglect thine ordinances: but let us rejoice also, that there are multitudes who *know thy name*, and fill thy courts with the voice of prayer and praise.

Blessed be thy name, for all the success which hath attended the labours of thy ministers. We bless thee for every one, whom thou hast turned from his evil ways; for

every one, whom thou hast comforted under affliction; and for every one, whom thou hast made to advance in faith and holiness. We would join in thanksgivings with all those, who this day have been sitting *under the tree of life with great delight*, and have found its *fruit sweet to their taste.*

And O, most gracious God, have mercy upon all those, who, although they have heard thy word, still remain *in the bonds of iniquity.* Let thy grace ever accompany the voice of thy ministers; that not one who heareth their message may *put away from himself the word of God*, and *judge himself unworthy of everlasting life.*

And grant, O Lord, that we may be in the number of those, *who hear thy word, and keep it.* Bless us with a capacity to remember what we hear; and *open our understanding, that we may understand the scriptures.*

O ever blessed God, instructor of the ignorant, purifier of the heart, by whose

influence the mists of error are dispersed, and the chains of sin are broken; give unto us, not only the knowledge, but also *the love of the truth*. Give effect to every successive opportunity of attending the house of God; that our faith may be more and more strengthened, and that our *love* toward God, and to one another, may be *made to abound* *.

Pardon, O merciful Lord, all the imperfections of our religious duties; neither in thy house, in the family, or in the closet.

* *This addition for the evening of a Sacrament Day may be introduced here.*

We thank thee, O Lord, for another opportunity of commemorating the love of Jesus Christ, in dying for our sins. Help all those who have attended the Table of our Lord, to keep the blessed Redeemer still in view; and enable them to walk henceforth as becometh the disciples of Jesus. May they go and show forth that love to God and man, of which he hath set us so great an example in his death. Like those who have partaken of the instituted signs of his body and blood with truly penitent hearts, may they watch and pray against all sin; remembering what it *cost to redeem their souls*. And may they ardently desire, and be daily growing more meet for that nearer communion with Jesus, which thy saints shall enjoy in heaven.

have we served thee as we ought. Forgive the worshippers; but let the worship, even though it be not free from some mixture of sin, find acceptance with thee, through the meritorious offering of Jesus Christ, our *Great High Priest.*

And now, may we be enabled to retire to rest, meditating on the blessed truths in which we have been instructed. O may they accompany us in *our going out, and coming in, at our lying down, and our rising up.*

Into thy hands, O God of salvation, we commend ourselves; humbly praying that should we be raised to see the light of another day, we may enter on it, deeply impressed with what we have been hearing, and seriously resolved, to take thy word *as a light to our feet, and a lamp to our paths.*

Now *to the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise GOD, be honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

For Grace to live according to GOD's Word.

BLESSED be the GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us, in Christ, with all spiritual blessings. Give us a thankful heart, O Lord, for thy mercy in looking upon sinful man, and for speaking to us by that *meek and lowly* Saviour, who never *breaketh the bruised reed, nor quencheth the smoking flax.*

Although the sabbath is past, we would not forget what we owe to thee for its blessings. We have heard the voice of Mercy, proclaiming pardon and peace through the blood of Jesus. We have likewise been called into thy service by this gracious voice. O give unto us that faith, which will make us rejoice in the *glad tidings* of salvation; and that love to thee, which will make us attentive to thy commands as well as to thy promises.

We renew our prayers for the grace of thy Holy Spirit; that the good impressions which thy word may have made on our minds, may be deep and lasting. May all our conduct this day prove, whatever trial or temptation befal us, that we desire to be *sincere and without offence* in thy sight.

We humbly offer up our requests in behalf of all those who heard the word of salvation yesterday. Suffer them not, most merciful Father, to *turn away from him who speaketh from heaven.* Other voices will be heard this day; but O, that mankind may perceive the danger of obeying any voice which contradicteth thine. Preserve them from *giving heed to seducing spirits*, and enable them to listen attentively to thy faithful word: for there is love even in its severest rebukes.

We bless thee, O Lord, for the assistance which thou didst afford to thy ministers in the discharge of their duty; and for all the success that may have attended their pious endeavours. And now we pray thee to prepare them for new services; and to direct

them in the further prosecution of that great work, to which thou hast called them.

Give thy blessing to them in their reading, in their private meditations, and in their pastoral visits. May they ever bear upon their hearts the welfare of their flocks; and be always laying up something in store, for future opportunities of instruction.

And while thy ministers are endeavouring to lead us in the right way, O may we, and all for whom they labour, willingly follow, and pursue the christian course with increasing earnestness.

And may the blessed company of those, who walk in the path of thy commandments, multiply every sabbath-day. O Lord, give thy word success, that new converts of all ranks, and all ages, may be *daily added to the church*: let *kings of the earth, and all people, princes, and all judges of the earth, young men and maidens, old men and children,* join *to praise the name of the Lord.*

Hear, O merciful Lord, our humble requests; and do thou, "who hast brought us safely to the beginning of this day," be pleased to preserve us from all things that may be hurtful either to body or soul, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

That we may live with Eternity in View.

O THOU blessed God, by whose good providence we are preserved to the close of another day, teach us to look forward to *the end of all things.* We are admonished, by the silence of the present hour, to stand prepared for that night, when the noise of this busy world shall be heard no more.

O let not that awful night overtake us

before the great business of life is done: but since thou hast in great mercy to our souls given us a *day of salvation, let us not sleep as do others, but watch and be sober.*

And *whatsoever our hand findeth to do,* especially in the affairs of life eternal, may we have grace to *do it with all our might;* ever remembering, that *there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither we are going.*

O Lord, how much reason have we to be humbled before thee, for our negligence in the great work of our salvation. On this day, among others, how seldom have we so much as thought of it; and when it has occurred to our minds, how faintly have we thought of it. And yet, how great an interest do we take in the affairs of the present life; and how vigorously do we pursue them. Forgive, O Lord, this shameful inconsistency. Well may we hide our heads, when we recollect how *careful and troubled we are about many things,* and yet how little engaged about the *one thing needful.*

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O Lord, do thou not only forgive, but free us from this inconsistency. Cure us of those desires which grasp at a shadow. For what would the world be to us without Thee? Were we to have nothing more than its uncertain riches, and its short-lived pleasures, we should be poor and wretched. Thou only, O God, canst make us truly blessed. Therefore to thee do we direct our eyes; and for thy favour will we humbly wait at thy footstool.

Let us not be numbered with the *men of this world, who have their portion in this life;* but with those who *confessing themselves strangers and pilgrims on earth, are seeking a better country.* Thou *forgivest their iniquities.* Thou *purifiest their hearts.* Thou *keepest them from the evil of the world.* If thou *visitest their offences with the rod, yet thy loving-kindness thou takest not from them. All things are made to work together for their good;* and they are *filled with all joy and peace in believing. O Lord, remember us with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit us with thy salvation;*

that we may see the good of thy chosen, that we may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, and glory with thine inheritance.

And may the hope of being thus blessed, be more to us than all bodily comforts and refreshments. We thank thee, that we have *a place where to lay our heads*, after the fatigues of the day. But doubly pleasant are our bodily comforts, when they are sweetened by a sense of thy mercy to our souls. We have reason to be thankful for the hardest bed, on which we can lie down at peace with thee.

O suffer none of us to let this day conclude, without lifting up a sincere and earnest prayer to thee for this grace. May thy Holy Spirit work in every heart *repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ;* that *whether we live we may live unto the Lord, or whether we die we may die unto the Lord: so that living or dying we may be the Lord's*, through Jesus Christ,

our only Mediator, who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

For the Blessing of God upon all our lawful Undertakings.

O LORD our God, *who makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to praise thee*, we draw near to thee with the offering of praise and prayer. Vouchsafe to accept it at our hands, through the mediation of our only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; in whose name we are encouraged to approach thee with humble confidence.

We not only enter upon another day, but we begin it in health, and are able, through thy goodness, to follow our respective vocations: For, O Lord, it is owing to thy

mercy, that *man goeth forth to his work, and to his labour until the evening.* O heavenly Father, let us go to our employments, with thy blessing upon us.

Enable us so to manage all temporal affairs, as not to be enslaved by them. Make us, with respect to the things of this life, moderate in our desires; that we may not take so much business upon ourselves as to distract our thoughts, and disqualify ourselves for the duties and enjoyments of religion.

Make us thankful for being warned in thy holy word of the fate of those whom *a greediness of filthy lucre* hath led into *temptation, and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.* Grant, O Lord, that in all the transactions of this day, we may *take heed that our hearts be not overcharged with the cares of this life.*

Should difficulties occur in our affairs this day, make us willing to suffer any thing rather than obtain relief by dishonourable

means. Nor let us in an hour of difficulty depend on human wisdom alone; but *call upon thee in the day of trouble.* For, O Lord, there is no wisdom like thy wisdom; no power like thy power; and therefore, no dependance equal to that of *making thee our trust.* Thy providence is our best security against the craftiness, or the violence of wicked men. Under thy guidance, the simple shall pass unhurt amidst those who seek to *make him their prey.*

We would leave the event of our undertakings to thee; for we know not what we ought to desire: Therefore, chuse thou for us; for thou best knowest what is for our good.

If it please thee to *prosper the work of our hands,* let not prosperity make us *forget thee, the Lord our God.* If it seem not good unto thee to give success to our labours, enable us to say from the heart, *thy will be done.* O Lord, let not the disappointment be the occasion of sin, and all will be well.

O let our hearts and hopes be fixed on

the good things, which thou hast prepared for those who love thee; that our comfort and peace may not depend on any of the events of this changing world.

Thou hast not given to thy servants any assurance of wordly prosperity; but thou *hast made with them an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things* which concern their spiritual welfare. In that covenant may we *principally* rejoice, when in prosperity; in that may we rest, in the hour of adversity; rejoicing in the *unsearchable riches of Christ,* and perfectly contented with those treasures, which the world can neither give, nor take away.

In this true wisdom give us grace, O merciful Lord, to improve day by day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

A Prayer for God's Protection.

MOST gracious Lord, from thee *cometh every good and perfect gift.* To thee we are indebted, for all that maketh the present life comfortable; and all that secureth to us the happiness of the life to come: with thee, therefore, would we begin and end every day.

Make us thankful for all the blessings which we have this day received at thy hands. How many *unknown blessings* have we probably received! Who but thyself knoweth, how near we have been to those evils, from from which we have been preserved!

But, O that we were duly thankful for our known mercies! Pardon our want of thankfulness, and accept our imperfect praises for the blessings we have received;

for they are great and many: and considering the reasons which we have to humble ourselves before thee, they manifest thy mercy, as well as thy goodness.

And now to whom can we look for preservation this night, but to Him, who hath kept us during the day. *O thou preserver of men, except thou keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain.*

Nothing but thy providential care over us can secure such frail creatures. Utterly unable are we to prevent many things which may render this night, a night of great distress and trouble. Who but thyself, O God, can guard us from pain, fear, or grief; evils that may assault the inhabitant, while the habitation is in perfect security! But *all things are in thy hand.* And *when thou givest quietness, who then can make trouble!*

To thy care, therefore, O gracious God, we humbly commend ourselves. Mercifully preserve us from the sons of violence, from

devouring flames, from all distressing events, and all wicked beings, bodily or spiritual.

And O keep us from the greatest of all evils. Give us that holy fear of falling into sin, for which we have need every moment to pray. O Lord, *there is no darkness with thee.* Let us remember, therefore, that although the secrecy of night be often chosen for works of iniquity, the transgressor never escapeth thine eye.

Never let us forget, that *thou knowest all things*, and hatest all iniquity. Impress our souls with an habitual reverence of thine all-seeing eye; and fill them with such love to thee, as shall cause us to *abhor that which is evil.*

Let thy blessing, O Lord, accompany every event of this night. Should it be a night of trial to any of us, make the trial *work for our good.* If we pass the night with comfort, let our waking thoughts be

those of thankfulness. Let our first enquiry be, *what shall we render to the Lord.*

What we have asked for ourselves, O Lord, we ask for others. We intreat thee to keep this neighbourhood in peace. We commend all our dear relations to thee. Guard them from evil, and especially from him who is called *the evil one.*

O may we, and may all who are dear to us, retire to rest duly sensible of all our blessings, and especially of that greatest of all blessings, the gift of a SAVIOUR.

Blessed, for ever blessed be the Lord, for that Redeemer, by whom we are delivered from the darkness of error, sin, and misery, and are brought to enjoy the light of eternal life. O may we follow him on earth, that in due time we may be joined to those in heaven, who ascribe *blessing and honour, glory and power, unto Him, who sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

For God's Guidance.

BLESSED is the man, O Lord, whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee. Vouchsafe unto us this mercy, we humbly beseech thee, *that we may be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.*

What more, O gracious God, can we desire than to *have a name and a place in thy house.* O let this favour be granted unto us, and *send the spirit of thy son into our hearts, that we may call thee Father.* Let not the possessions, the honours, or the pleasures of the world be the idols of our hearts; but let our desire be, to have thy blessing; for without this, earthly abundance is poverty, and honour is an empty sound. *In the fulness of our sufficiency we shall be in straits;* unless *thou art our God, and we are thy people.*

And dost thou, O Lord, condescend to speak as a Father to *sinful dust and ashes?* Dost thou offer to adopt those into thy family, who are *conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity?* O may we be duly affected by such grace. Joyfully consenting to thy terms, may we *come out, and be separate* from every thing that would hold us from thee: And never, never may there be in our hearts so much as a thought of *leaving our Father's House.*

Never suffer us to give that honour to another which is due to thee alone. How often, alas! have we been guilty of this folly. O Lord, *we have worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator:* but how frequently have we had reason to be *ashamed of our hope.* In many instances our idols have deceived us; but thou, O faithful God, hast never disappointed the hopes of them who *make thy word their trust.* All thy promises are, in due time, faithfully performed; and in thee thy people find a *safe guide,* amidst intricate paths; a *supporter,* when they are faint; a *protector,* when

assaulted; a *comforter*, when distressed; a *refuge*, when pursued.

Whom then shall we desire to have for our guide and guard, but Him, *who feedeth his flock like a shepherd?* Lead us then, blessed Lord, and give us grace to follow. Too long have we been *led astray* by our own *foolish and hurtful lusts;* but we see *whither* they were hurrying us. We yield ourselves, therefore, to thy guidance; fearful of taking one step, but as thou leadest us.

Conducted by Thee, we shall go through the day safely, if not pleasantly. We may *suffer*, but if we be kept from *sin*, it will be a blessed day. We may not be exempted from trial, but if thou sanctify the trial, all will be well. And in the evening, should we have to look back on a day of tempest, we shall have cause to be thankful, that He was with us, *whom the winds and the sea obey;* and through whose help, the *deep did not swallow us up.*

Pity those, who are still as *sheep going*

astray: Heavenly Shepherd, bring them home to thy fold: for there only we *find pasture:* there only we are safe.

Let no one *hear thy voice* in vain. May our dear relations, our friends, and our enemies (if we have any) hear it, and obey it. *May that Saviour, who was lifted up from the earth, draw all men unto him. To him may the Gentiles seek, and find his rest glorious.* Yea, let him be the hope and *confidence of all the ends of the earth.*

Let heaven and earth praise our God for his many mercies; but "especially for his "inestimable love in the redemption of the "world, by our Lord Jesus Christ; for "the means of grace, and for the hope of "glory."

O "give us that due sense of all thy mer-"cies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly "thankful, and that we may shew forth thy "praise, not only with our lips, but in our "lives; by giving up ourselves to thy ser-"vice, and by walking before thee in ho-

" liness and righteousness all our days, " through Jesus Christ our Lord," who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

For Humility.

GREAT and holy God, how shall we come before thee! Thou art *the Lord God Omnipotent:* we *are but dust and ashes.* Thou *art from everlasting to everlasting;* we *are of yesterday, and know nothing.* Our meanness alone ought to fill us with humility in thy presence. But, O gracious God, there is a still more affecting reason for our thus approaching thee: Thou hast *nourished and brought us up as children, and we have rebelled against thee.* " We have erred and " strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, and " there is no health in us." *Lord, thou*

knowest our foolishness, and our sins are not hidden from thee.

O thou holy and heart-searching God, suffer us not to listen to those deceitful reasonings which would make us think lightly of our sins. What plea can we offer for pride, for impurity, or for anger? What shall we say in excuse for having loved this vain world so much, and thee so little? We stand chargeable with these, and many other offences: and, O God, preserve us from attempting to extenuate the evil of them.

Let us fall into thy gracious hands, acknowledging our sins with true contrition of heart, and beseeching thee to show mercy to us on thine own terms. Instead of cavilling at the way in which it pleaseth thee to pardon the guilty, let us most gladly, and most thankfully, seek to thee for that forgiveness, which thou holdest out to us, through the mediation and sufferings of thy dear Son Jesus Christ.

O Lord God, here is our only hope.

Conscious of many transgressions, and fearful that unobserved offences may have been committed, we flee to the cross of Jesus, and there, with an eye directed to him who *bore our sins*, would we finish this day.

And we pray, O Lord, that, not only when we are kneeling before thee, but at all times, we may be preserved from *thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think*. May a just view of ourselves be continually present to our minds; that in all our conduct towards thee, O God, we may act like penitent sinners; and that in all our transactions with men, we may behave with *lowliness and meekness;* as becometh those who stand in continual need of forgiveness.

And let no gifts, or talents, which thou mayest have bestowed on us, make us forget what we are in thy sight. Lord, when we recollect the use we have made of them, we have reason to be filled with shame, instead of being proud on the account of them: How little have they been employed to thy

glory! What *unprofitable servants* are we, with all the gifts thou hast conferred on us!

"And now, O Lord, grant unto us the "spirit to think" as well as to "do always "such things as are right." for we know, by experience, that we may be lifted up with pride, even though convinced that we ought to be filled with shame. Therefore, O do thou give unto us a humble heart. Preserve us from all confidence in ourselves, and let us never forget, that *in the Lord* alone *have we either righteousness, or strength.*

O Lord, we commit our bodies and souls to thy care, as weak and unworthy creatures: unable to defend ourselves, and undeserving of thy protection. Accept our thanks for the mercies we have received; and bring us, we humbly beseech thee, in safety to the beginning of another day, with a renewed sense of thy providence and grace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

That we may make the best Use of Life.

MOST gracious and most glorious Lord, *Who is like unto thee!* almighty in power, and yet *abundant in mercy: of purer eyes than to behold iniquity*, yet *long-suffering toward offenders.* All our endeavours to set forth thy glory must be feeble and imperfect: but thou lookest to the heart; and wilt accept the praises even of weak and sinful mortals, who desire to give unto thee the *honour due unto thy name.*

We desire to offer up our unfeigned thanks to thee this morning, for all the blessings

of the past night. The *sleep* with which we have been refreshed, the *light* of returning day, and *health* to use and enjoy it, are all thy gifts. And shall we receive these gifts, and forget to bless the bountiful Giver? Be it far from us, O Lord!

Yet, O most gracious God, we must confess, that we have often overlooked thy goodness; and have forgotten to devote that life to thy service which thou hast mercifully supported. Let our past unthankfulness be forgiven, and *sanctify us, in body, soul and spirit;* that henceforth we may employ our powers in endeavouring to do thy will; for it is thou who renewest them from day to day.

We thank thee, *O Father of mercies,* for thy holy word, which teacheth us *how to walk and please Thee our God.* We would take it this day as a *lamp unto our feet;* and do thou enable us to follow its directions with simplicity of heart; that *walking uprightly,* we may *walk surely,* and *go on our way rejoicing.*

We bless thee also for that pattern of faith, holiness, and love, which we see in the life of our Saviour; and for the encouragement we have to believe, that He who gave us the example, will enable us to copy it. O let us *receive that grace out of his fulness*, that we may follow him faithfully. We are apt to go astray; but do thou preserve us, that we turn not away from our heavenly guide. We are apt to be *weary in well-doing*; but through thy help, we shall persevere.

Enable us, O Lord, to *walk by faith*; that the objects of sense may have no improper effect on us. May *our affections be set on things above*; that we may neither fall into the *snares* which lie in our way, nor sink under the *burdens* we may be called to bear.

And, O Lord, let it not be enough for us to be kept from mispending life, but may we be desirous of improving it. *While we have time*, let us endeavour to *do good unto all men*. If this day thou appoint any *labour of love* for us to perform, O may we willingly

undertake it; glad of an opportunity of imitating Him, who *lived and died for us.*

Walking thus, O Lord, by the light of thy holy word, we need not perplex ourselves about any thing which may happen to us this day. Thine eye is always on those who fear thee; and thou hast promised to make *all things work together for their good:* O God, *be it unto thy servants according to thy word.*

To thy gracious care we commit ourselves, our dear relations, and all, for whom we are bound to pray. We pray for them, and for ourselves, that as we increase in years we may increase in *all the fruits of righteousness*; and thus become more and more *meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light*; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose comprehensive words we further call upon thee, saying,

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

For Grace to live in a State of continual Preparation for Death.

O THOU who art ever *worthy to be praised for thy goodness, and thy wonderful works to the children of men*, we come before thee, to thank thee for what we have received, and to ask for the continuation of thy mercies; for we are always *poor and needy*, and blessed be thy name, thou *art rich unto all who call upon thee.*

We thank thee for our preservation by day. We thank thee for the season of rest, and the means of enjoying this blessing. Enable us, O Lord, to use all our bodily comforts with a considerate and devout mind. Let us not lie down on our beds *like the brutes that perish*, but with serious reflections and prayer; remembering that the time is coming, when we must lie down in the grave.

And, seeing that our *life is but a vapour*, and we know not but that *this night our souls may be required of us*, O give us all a serious concern to be in a state of preparation for our last hour. We are often more attentive to things of inferior moment, than we are to this great duty. We secure our habitations, but we forget our souls! O forgive that folly which leads us to *take thought* only for that which is least worthy of our concern: and do thou make us *wise unto salvation.*

Grant to us repentance unto life; that we may not only be afraid of the consequences of sin, but ashamed of its defilement, and weary of its burthen.

And inasmuch as the sincerest and deepest repentance maketh no satisfaction for our offences, O what cause have we to bless thy holy name, for having provided an atoning sacrifice for us; and for discovering to our guilty minds, that *Lamb of* GOD *which taketh away the sin of the world.* On that great sacrifice, which our blessed Lord made of

himself on the cross, would we ground all our hopes of forgiveness.

Look, O Lord, upon the face of thine anointed; blot out all our misdeeds for the sake of *Jesus Christ thy Son, whose blood cleanseth from all sin.* Thou hast said, *whosoever believeth in him shall be saved: Lord, we believe, help our unbelief.* Help us with truly penitent hearts to commit our guilty souls into his hands, and there, in peace, may we leave what we entrust to him.

May we close this day in *charity*, as well as in *repentance* and *faith.* We pray thee to forgive all those who may have done, or intended, evil to us. Not knowing whether we shall ever return to any further dealings with mankind, enable us now to lie down in peace with all the world.

O that thus we all may conclude this day! We may *then be down without fear.* Whatever be the events of the night to others, it will be *well with us.* Should even the shadow of death surround us, we shall have no cause

for alarm: for Thou wilt be with us; our *light* in darkness, our *life* in death.

We now commend ourselves to thee, O Lord, blessing thee for the privilege of being permitted to pray to thee. We humbly entreat thee to bless all whom we ought to remember in our prayers. We commend to thee our dear relations at a distance from us. We commend also this neighbourhood to thy care.

To thee, Father of Mercies, we particularly commend the children of affliction. O be gracious to those who are *chastened with pain*, and to those who are *wetting their couches with their tears*, and to those whose hearts are *meditating terror*. Above all we pray thee, to look down in mercy upon departing souls; and take away the *bitterness of death*, by saying to the trembling heart, *I am thy salvation.*

Lord, accept and bless us, in and through thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us thus to pray, *Our Father*, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

For the Ministers of GOD'S *holy Word.*

HOLY and gracious Lord, though we are *unworthy of the least of all thy mercies*, still we find thee rich in goodness toward us. *Thy mercies are new every morning.* We are restored to the light of another day, who might now have been numbered among the dead.

Nor are we the only partakers of thy goodness; *the earth is full of thy mercy, O Lord:* Instead of visiting it with *the rod of judgment*, thou causest *thy rain to descend, and thy sun to arise, on the evil and the good, on the just and the unjust.*

But if thy patience and mercy are so manifest in these temporal blessings, O how much clearer do they appear, in the means of salvation which thou hast afforded us. *Like sheep we went astray*, and never, never should

we have returned to thee, hadst thou left us to ourselves.

But thou didst *look upon our low estate.* Thine eye *saw, and pitied us.* Yea, *so didst thou love the world, as to give thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* Let none of thy mercies be forgotten; but may we be especially thankful for the blessings of redemption.

We thank thee, O Lord, that the *tidings of salvation* have been sent to us, and that we are blessed with the *means of grace:* O that these means may be continued unto us, and be daily better improved by us.

We pray thee likewise, O Lord, to give abundant success to thy word; that the *Church which was purchased by the precious blood of Jesus,* may *break forth on the right hand, and on the left.*

And as thou art pleased to make use of human instruments, in carrying on thy mer-

ciful designs to man, we pray that thy blessing may rest on them. To all the ministers of thy word, let such a *portion of thy spirit* be granted, as shall be sufficient for the duties to which they are called.

O thou who *holdest the stars in thy right hand*, keep thy ministers from the *corruptions that are in the world;* that they may be *burning and shining lights*, to the end of their course.

We pray thee, O Lord, to look, in particular, upon such as are called to eminent stations in thy church. Direct them in the choice of "persons to serve in the ministry." Give them all the discernment, and all the zeal, necessary to so important a trust; that no one may obtain an office in thy house, who is destitute of the gifts and graces which thy service requires.

O preserve thy church from the intrusion of ignorant and ungodly men. Give us, O Lord, *pastors and teachers after thine own*

heart, who shall feed thy people with knowledge and understanding.

Give *the word, O Lord, that great may be the company of the preachers.* Look with thy wonted compassion upon this sinful world; and while so many instruments of corruption and ruin are permitted to injure men, send forth those who long and labour for their salvation.

Be graciously pleased to bless every part of the earth with such Pastors. And prosper thou the labours of thy servants; that our adorable Redeemer may *see of the travail of his soul, and be satisfied:* and that the hands of thy ministers may be strengthened in the blessed work to which they are appointed.

We pray thee, O Lord, to be with those who, from love to the souls of men, are now encountering all the hardships of foreign missions. Comfort their hearts; and crown their endeavours with that success, which, to a

soul devoted to thee in this work, is one of the highest rewards.

And may we, by *receiving and walking in the truth*, be the *joy and crown* of faithful ministers. May the blessed effects of thy word be evident in our tempers, in our pursuits, and in our conduct towards all men. Thus may we *show forth the praises of Him, who hath called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.*

To the guidance and protection of thy providence, O Lord, we now commend ourselves, and all for whom we ought to pray; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

A General Prayer.

MERCIFUL GOD, our Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer; Thou art the foun-

tain from which all our comforts flow. Without thee we are nothing but poverty and misery.

We have reason to take shame to ourselves for "having often followed the devices and "desires of our own hearts," when they have been in opposition to thy will. O Lord, we would not attempt to palliate this folly and wickedness, but would, with unfeigned humility and contrition, cast ourselves entirely upon thy mercy; knowing that we are inexcusable.

And blessed be thy holy name for the encouragement given to us in the Gospel so to do. *How worthy of all acceptation is that faithful saying*, that *Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners!* May we treasure it up in our hearts; but let not the hope which it inspires be accompanied with any indifference to thy will. Though *there is mercy with thee*, let us still *fear thee*. Though thou *blottest out our sins*, yet, let us remember them with shame and sorrow.

O gracious God, let not one of this family be a stranger to himself, or to thee. May thy Holy Spirit *convince* every one *of* his own *sin;* that there may not be in all this house, one who is not sensible of his *need of that blessed Physician*, who came down from heaven to cure the diseases of the soul, and to rescue us from death eternal.

Suffer us not, O Divine Teacher, to remain either ignorant or negligent of any thing that relates to our everlasting welfare; but especially of *that great salvation*, which thou hast published in thy word, and art still proclaiming by the voice of thy ministers. *O may we know the day of our visitation;* that we may not perish with the blessed tidings of salvation sounding in our ears.

Good Lord, deliver us from all hypocrisy, as well as from a hardened conscience. May we attend to thy voice with the utmost simplicity of mind; and make an entire surrender of ourselves to thee. Make us watch-

ful over our own hearts; circumspect in all our conduct; and upright in all our intentions. Give us grace to improve our time, and every other talent, which thou hast committed to us.

We bless thy holy name for all the mercies of the day past; and we humbly request thy continued care and protection, to defend us from the evils to which we may be exposed this night.

To thee we likewise commend every one for whom we ought to pray; especially thy servant our King, the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family. We pray thee, O Lord, to bless our country; and though our national sins are very great, yet *turn not away thy mercy from us.*

We pray thee to have mercy on all men. Comfort the afflicted. Enlighten the minds of those who are in spiritual darkness. And may they, *who are taken captive by Satan, be recovered out of his snares.*

We commend all the ministers of thy word to thee; and especially him to whose care thou hast committed us. Bless, O Lord, the labours of those *who watch for souls*; and add to the number of those who are faithful in this holy office.

We intreat thee to bless all the inhabitants of this parish in which we dwell. Bless them, O Lord, in their civil callings, and in their families; but above all, bless them in their souls; that they may live in *the fear of thy holy name*, and in love and peace one with another. These mercies we ask in the name and words of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

For Grace to live under a due Sense of the Mercies of God.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who gavest us refreshing sleep while we laid on our beds, and hast enabled us to rise from them in health, we draw near to thee with the sacrifice of praise and prayer. Like every thing else that is ours, it is not worthy of thy regard; but *deal with thy servants according to thy mercy;* and for the sake of that atoning sacrifice which Jesus our Great High Priest offered up, let the *lifting up of our hands* be acceptable in thy sight.

How many are there whose cry during the whole night hath been, *would God it were morning!* but to whom the returning light bringeth no relief, and who are now saying, *would God it were evening!* Who are we, O Lord, that thou shouldest put a difference between us and them? It *is not for our*

righteousness, that we have been made to rest in peace, while distress of various kinds hath kept many awake.

'And now, O merciful Lord, while we consider how painfully the past night hath been spent by many: shall we not give thanks to thee, the giver of life, of ease, of sleep, and of every thing else which maketh life comfortable? Yes, Lord, *our voice shalt thou hear in the morning*. 'We will begin the day with praise to him, who hath given to us a night of mercy. *O praise the Lord, for his mercy endureth for ever.*

And may we not only *speak*, but *live* to thy praise. How many are our obligations to live to thy glory; how are they continually increasing by the addition of new benefits! *What shall we render unto the Lord for all his mercies?*

But, O heavenly Father, great as our temporal blessings are, they are far exceeded by what thou hast done for our souls. Thou hast *opened a fountain for our sin and un-*

cleanness. Thou hast raised up a Deliverer, who *is mighty to save.* Through *the riches of thy grace,* we have in Christ Jesus a *Priest,* to make atonement for our sins; a *Physician,* to heal our diseases; a *Shepherd,* to protect and feed us; and a *Guide,* to direct our feet into the way of peace.

O that the *multitude of thy mercies* to us may have a due influence on our hearts, our tempers, and our lives. Let the recollection of thy grace, most blessed God, abide with us through the day, and have a holy effect upon our minds; that while our hands are employed about the affairs of the present life, our hearts may not be improperly affected by them.

Enable us this, and every day, to *tread in the footsteps of thy flock;* like Enoch, may we *walk with God;* like David, may we *set the Lord always before us;* like Moses, may we *endure as seeing him who is invisible.* Thus let the day of life be spent; that when its evening shall come, we may end our day

like Simeon, and say, *Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace.*

For this we earnestly beg thy grace; rejoicing that thou hast not only given to us clear precepts, and bright examples, but hast likewise promised to give *thy Holy Spirit to them who ask thee* for this favour. Bestow, O Lord, this great blessing upon us; that we may obey the precepts, and imitate the examples, which thou hast set before us.

And we earnestly pray, that this divine assistance may never be suspended; for it is not the mere knowledge of our duty, that will ensure the practice of it: through the depravity of our hearts, we are capable of disregarding every *precept* which thou hast enforced, every *example* set before us, and every *mercy* we have received.

O be present with us, therefore, every moment of the day. *Hold up our goings in thy paths, that our footsteps slip not.* And enable us to be *faithful unto death, that we*

may obtain the crown of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who hath instructed us to pray to thee in these words,

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

A General Thanksgiving.

BLESSED LORD, "the Author and "Giver of all good things," we conclude this week with an humble attempt to set forth thy praise. We would take a thankful review of thy providence; and adore the name of that God, of whose goodness, patience and mercy, we are still living witnesses.

But where, O Lord, shall we begin, in recounting thy mercies? By thee were we formed; *Thou wast our hope when we hanged yet on our mother's breast; by thee have we been holden up ever since we were born.*

From how many evils we have been preserved is best known to thee, who knowest all things: but we believe, that it is through our *having obtained help of thee*, that *we continue to this day.*

O Lord, when we consider to what evils we are exposed, and how little we have sought thy care; what reason have we to be filled with wonder and thankfulness, that we are yet *among the living.* *It is of thy mercies that we are not consumed.*

Nor have we far back to go for proof of this. A review of this week only, will show that thou art *long suffering toward us.* With *shame and confusion of face* we acknowledge, not only that *in many things we offend;* but that even in our best moments, we have not been *pure in thy sight.*

Yet from such unworthy creatures thou wilt condescend to accept praise. Blessed be thy name, O Lord, for all the comforts we have severally enjoyed. To thee we are indebted for our health, our strength, our

peace, and our safety. If *death* hath not come into this house; if *evil tidings* have not been brought hither; if *disease* hath been kept away, or removed from us; it is wholly owing to thy gracious care.

We look forward, O Lord, with pleasure to the return of thy day. O may we live to see it! May we rise in health in the morning, to attend the service of thy house; thither may we go with willing feet; and there, looking round on the *multitude of thy mercies*, may we lift up the voice of unfeigned thankfulness.

There may we bless thee with our whole heart, for every temporal favour shown to our family, our kindred, and our country. There also may we adore thee, for the richer blessings of redemption; for the *love of God;* for the *grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;* for the *communion of the Holy Ghost;* and for all the present and everlasting benefits, which flow to us *through the kindness and love of God our Saviour.*

Blessed, for ever blessed be the Lord, that we have heard of that *name, at which every knee must bow.* O let the name of JESUS be ever dear to us! Thanks be to thee, O God of Mercy, for sending thy word to *Britain;* and for casting our lot in this land of light, in which the truths of the *glorious Gospel* are published.

O that we, and all the inhabitants of this favoured country, may know and improve the *day of our visitation.* May we set a due value on all thy mercies; and attend *with all diligence* to the *things which belong to our peace.*

We intreat thee, O Lord, to prepare us for the Sabbath-day. May thy ministers be assisted in their office. We particularly pray for thy servant who *ministereth to us in holy things.* May he, and all thy messengers, speak the truth *with all boldness,* with *plainness* of speech, and with *tenderness* of heart. And may great effects follow the faithful administration of thy word and ordinances,

in all those who attend them. *O let thy word have free course and be glorified* in the conversion of sinners, and the edification of thy church, through Jesus Christ our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

SECOND WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Thanksgiving for the Light of the Gospel.

O THOU that hearest prayer, graciously receive the humble petitions of thine unworthy servants. We would glorify thy holy name, for having caused the nations *who once sat in darkness, to see the light* of the Gospel. *We* have great reason, O Lord, to praise thee for this grace, for our forefathers were *gentiles in the flesh*, and not only *aliens from the commonwealth of Israel*, but *strangers to the covenant of promise; without hope, and without God.* But *through the tender mercy of our God, the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

O that we may be duly sensible of thy mercy in manifesting this way to us. For we have no reason to believe, that it would ever have been discovered, had it not been revealed by

Thyself. O Lord, *the world by wisdom knew thee not.* Adored be thy name, thou hast not left us to exclaim in wretched uncertainty, *Wherewith shall we come before the* Lord? But in thy great mercy thou hast *shown us what is good for man;* and how thou canst both be *just, and the justifier of him who believeth in Jesus.*

And now, O Lord, since the *way of peace* is revealed; grant that we, and all who shall hear thy word this day, may see the excellency of that way, and walk in it. Deliver us from all that *false wisdom*, which leadeth some to account the *preaching of the cross foolishness.* Let all corrupt *imaginations, and every high thing which exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, be cast down;* and may *every thought be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

Blessed be thy name for such pastors and teachers as understand and love the truth. Be with them, O merciful Lord, according to thy gracious promise. Enable them faithfully and judiciously to point out that way of salvation, in which we may come with

holy confidence to the throne of grace, and *obtain mercy*. And may they preach thy word in the *spirit of love;* making him, who never *broke the bruised reed*, their pattern, as well as their subject.

And while thy servants are publishing the glorious truths of the gospel, O heavenly Father, accompany the word with the influence of thy Holy Spirit, that *our understanding may be opened to understand the scriptures. May the eyes of our mind be enlightened; that we may know what is the hope of thy calling; and what are the riches of the glory of thine inheritance in the saints.*

And let not a cold and barren knowledge be the only effect produced by Christian instruction. May our hearts be warmed by it; let it awaken in us every devout affection; that we may rejoice in the *glad tidings of salvation*, although humbled at the sight of ourselves. May our faith in Jesus be increased. May the remembrance of his name refresh our hearts. May his will be our law; his love our song; and the hope of seeing him in heaven, our principal joy on earth.

Lord grant that it may be thus with all who hear thy word this day. May all vain hopes, all false views, and all hardness of heart, fall before the truth.

We pray thee to enable us to *worship thee in spirit and in truth.* May our hearts and our lips unite in honouring thee. With the self-abasement that becometh sinners, may we utter our confessions, our prayers, and our thanksgivings. In the same spirit may we hear thy word, and perform every act of worship in which we engage this day. And graciously vouchsafe, O Lord, to accept our weak and imperfect services, and grant the requests which we make, both for ourselves and for others.

And may thy blessing so attend our waiting on thee, that we may return from thy courts with an instructed and edified heart. May we bring religion home to our houses, that it may be found there, as well as in the house of God. So let it be with thy servants, O Lord, that we, on all occasions showing forth the holy influence of thy truth, may at all times feel its heavenly consolations; through

Jesus Christ our Mediator and Advocate, by whom we were taught thus to address thee,

Our Father, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

That we may not rest satisfied with a Form of Godliness.

O THOU *searcher of the heart*, with whom the mere service of the lips is of no avail, give unto us a sincere and serious mind in prayer. Remembering that thou canst not be deceived by false appearances, let us *worship thee in spirit and in truth.*

Blessed be thy Name, for such a sense of Religion as preserveth us from neglecting thine ordinances; but seeing they may be attended by those whose *hearts are not right in thy sight*, we make it our earnest prayer to thee, that we may not rest in the outward acts of religion.

We would be thankful for so much knowledge as to see, that there may be *the form of godliness without the power of it*: but do thou preserve us from neglecting either. May we attend all thine appointments with an exemplary regularity; trusting in thee to bestow that grace upon us, by which their edifying intention is completed.

May we not only read and hear thy word; but seriously consider the things which it declareth to us. May we hearken to thy gracious counsels, be convinced of our sinfulness, and turn to thee with our whole heart.

Let us not only call ourselves Christians; but be Christians indeed: fleeing to Christ as our *refuge*; leaning on him as our *support*; living upon him daily as the *bread* of life; and following him as our *leader*. May we *glory in his cross*; and by it may the *world be crucified to us, and we to the world.*

Thus, O Lord of life, quicken us, that our religion may not be a body without spirit. May we not only have *a name to live*,

but be indeed *alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.* For thy word assureth us, that although we may *understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, and speak with the tongues of men or even of angels, if we have not charity*, these gifts will *profit us nothing.*

We earnestly beseech thee, therefore, to add the power of thy grace, to the light of thy truth; that we may grow in faith and love: and being renewed by thy Holy Spirit from day to day, we may become more and more *meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.*

We pray thee, most gracious Father, to look in mercy on the Christian world, and pour down a spirit of illumination on its Churches; that ignorance, pride, and false security may be removed far from them. May the simplicity and power of thy gospel, as they were seen in its best days, return again. *Look down, O Lord, from heaven, behold, and visit this vine.* Let *showers of blessings* descend on it; that there may be a *revival of thy work* in all the Churches,

and that it may be known that thou *art yet among us.*

And may we of this house, partake largely of this favour. Stir up every one of us to the diligent use of all those means, in which thou hast appointed us to be found, in order to *grow in grace.*

Suffer us not, O Lord, to rest satisfied with our present attainments in religion; but as those who are far from being perfect, may we daily *press toward the mark* before us.

O God of mercy, pardon the coldness of our hearts in thy service this day. We have need most earnestly and humbly to intreat thy forgiveness, even on account of our holiest employments. And, if even for our prayers and praises we have need to ask forgiveness, how much more for all our other actions! *Enter not* therefore *into judgment with thy servants, O Lord,* but look upon us and *accept us in thy beloved Son,* of whose mediation we are in continual need.

Mercifully protect us this night from all evil, and grant that we may see the light of another day in peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

That the World may not render God's Word ineffectual.

O GOD of the spirits of all flesh, let every day begin with thee. We have had the privilege of waiting on thee in thine house. And we desire to be thankful, that we were not suffered to waste that time in idleness or pleasure, which thou in mercy gavest us for the *work of our salvation*.

But we must likewise implore thy forgiveness; for though we have reason to praise thee for keeping us from profaning the

Sabbath, yet we may look back with shame on the manner in which we performed its duties. O how little was there of that deep humiliation, with which our confessions ought to be uttered;—of that fervency with which our prayers and praises ought to be offered;—and of that solemn attention, with which thy word should be heard!

Yet, O gracious God, defective as all our services were, we hope and trust, that through the merits and intercession of thy dear Son, we were accepted in thine ordinances; and we bless thy holy name for having given us the opportunity of attending them.

But although the day of rest is over, and we must now be employed in the affairs of the present life, we are yet in thy sight; and ought to endeavour to approve ourselves to thee, even in the common affairs of life.

We begin, therefore, this part of the week with supplication to thee, *O God of all grace*; humbly beseeching thee to make us so mindful of thy continual presence, that all

our behaviour may serve to show, that thou art still *in our thoughts.*

Defend us, O Lord our God, while we are employed about the things of this life, from the hurtful influence which they may have on our minds. Mercifully regard thy frail creatures who have to encounter with the cares, the difficulties, the allurements of this present world. Let not these things overwhelm us, nor make us forgetful of those blessed truths we so lately heard.

O Lord, we feel our weakness; we remember how we have been borne away by the crowd of temporal affairs, that have pressed on us as soon as the Sabbath was over. Before the evening of another day hath come, the serious and salutary impressions that had been made upon us by thy word, have almost been effaced. Sometimes we have lost almost the relish of those good things which we have tasted; and have been scarcely able to recollect the peace, the hope, and the joy, which we felt in the closet, and in the congregation.

O let it not be thus with us this day. In our most busy hours, let us not lose a sense of thy presence. Let the influence of thy holy word be forcible and abiding. Having heard it, we are now called to show forth the effect it should have on our hearts and lives; O may it be manifest, that we are endeavouring to practise, while we are out of thy house, the heavenly lessons which we received when we were within it.

And permit us, *Father of mercies*, to petition for others, as well as for ourselves. We would feel for those thoughtless persons, on whom the advantages of the day of rest are bestowed in vain. Have mercy on those who *set at nought all thy counsel*, who are deaf even to the voice of mercy, even to the voice of *Jesus the Mediator*, and to the *blood of sprinkling, which speaketh better things than the blood of Abel.* O thou, who canst enlighten the darkest mind, and soften the hardest heart, be merciful to all such; and give them to see and feel those eternal truths, which it will be our salvation to regard, but our ruin to neglect.

Suffer not those who may have given some attention to thy word, to satisfy themselves with the knowledge of the truth. Let us be deeply convinced, of the impossibility of being happy till our hearts are truly reconciled to thy will. May we not only *know the truth, but may the truth make us free.* Break every *bond of iniquity*; and enable us seriously to consider, that if but one chain hold us in the service of sin, we are still in captivity; though freed from a thousand errors in judgment.

O spirit of truth and love, do thou not only enlighten our minds, but warm our hearts with holy fire. Make our wills conformable to thy will. Sanctify every affection of our hearts. Let all our powers conspire to glorify our Creator.

We ask these blessings in the name of that Saviour, who taught us to address thee in these words,

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

Thanksgiving for Mercies, Temporal and Spiritual.

O LORD GOD, to whom we are indebted for all our enjoyments, graciously vouchsafe to hear us while we acknowledge them. From thee we receive all that renders the day pleasant, and the night peaceful. Thou gavest us the cheerful light of day for our necessary employments; and thou hast now brought on the stillness of the night, that we may be at rest, and that our wearied nature may be refreshed with sleep.

We thank thee, O Lord, for the provisions which thou hast made for our bodies: but we have greater mercies than these to acknowledge. Thou hast provided us with the means of *walking with God* by day, and of *lying down in peace* when our labours are over. O that every one of us may be blessed with that knowledge of thee, as a *God of*

grace, which thy faithful servants enjoy, and which maketh them humble and thankful, for the common comforts of life.

We would remember, in the use and enjoyment of all our bodily comforts, that we are *sinful creatures.* We would humbly and thankfully recollect the means through which we receive these forfeited blessings. May we be ever mindful, that they are restored through the mediation of Him, *who taketh away the sin of the world.* The *health* we have enjoyed this day, the *food* with which our table hath been spread, the *sleep* we hope for this night, and all that renders life comfortable, we owe to divine grace.

And if for these enjoyments, we are bound to *sing of thy mercy*, how much more for the richer blessings of that redemption, which we obtain through the blood of Jesus! O Lord, we have no words that will fully express our obligations to thee for these mercies. Here *thou art exalted above all blessing and praise.* But we will endeavour *to sing thy praise* with

all our powers; and thy grace shall be the subject of our thanksgiving.

And now, O Lord, since thou art willing to impart unto us spiritual and everlasting blessings, may we be more desirous of them, than of the comforts of the present life; yea, so may we learn to estimate *the things that belong to our peace*, as to *count all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Blessed be thy holy Name for offering these greater mercies to us miserable sinners, *without money and without price.* Blessed be thy holy Name for declaring, that *Whosoever will, may come and take of the water of life freely.* Encouraged by this gracious invitation, so suited to our condition, we now apply to thee for *spiritual blessings.*

Vouchsafe unto us, most gracious God, the *pardon* of all our sins. Grant unto us the spirit of *true repentance. Sanctify us in body, soul, and spirit.* And if it please thee, may we be favoured with a comfortable

persuasion of our being in a state of reconciliation with thee; that our days may be brightened by faith and hope; that in our temporal enjoyments we may taste thy love; and that we may be preserved from all those distressing thoughts, to which a consciousness of sin rendereth us liable.

May every one of us be enabled to lie down to rest in the *spirit of adoption*; committing himself to thee as a child into the hands of a father. This is a privilege, O Lord, with which thou condescendest to honour thy servants. Help us to put away every thing that may prevent our enjoyment of it; and enable us to *walk as obedient children*.

Forgive, O Lord, whatever hath been inconsistent with that character in our behaviour this day. Pity and pardon us, O most gracious Father, and be mercifully pleased still to visit us with thy favour, and grant us a peaceful and refreshing night. And if we have another day given to us, may we endeavour to walk like those whom thou hast redeemed and sanctified.

These great blessings we implore at thy merciful hands, in the name of thy dear Son, our only Advocate, who condescended to teach us how to pray.

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

A General Prayer.

O FATHER of mercies, to whom the guilty must look for pardon, the necessitous must seek for supplies, and the sufferer must come for support, we direct our eyes to thee this morning; praying thee to be *about our path*, as thou hast been *about our bed.*

O Lord, give us that *wisdom, which is profitable to direct* us in our course. Let not *a deceived heart turn us aside. May we hunger and thirst after righteousness,* and be always sitting at the feet of that Saviour,

who hath promised to fulfil these holy desires.

And may we so *learn of Him*, that our *profiting may appear unto all*, and on every occasion. If we are in prosperity, may we be *sober and thankful*. If in adversity, enable us to be *patient and submissive*. If we are threatened with any evil, may we look to God as *our refuge*. If we are called to suffer for Christ's sake, may we be thankful that we do *not suffer as evil doers*. If reproached, may we be meek; if poor and afflicted, may we be contented and resigned. Vouchsafe us the aid of thy Holy Spirit, that in all circumstances we may show *what great things* thy grace *hath done for us*.

Enable us to *glorify thy name* by the exemplary discharge of social duties. As a household, may we *love as brethren*; may we be ready to *bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ*. May we *walk in love* also toward all with whom we have any intercourse; neither forgetting what is due to those, who deserve good at

our hands; nor failing to show the *meekness and gentleness of Christ*, toward those who may offend us.

May we not only avoid *giving offence* to others, but be desirous likewise of *doing good* to them; ever ready to confer benefits, whether we ourselves receive them or not. Incline our hearts to *devise liberal things*, for, O Lord, it is *by liberal things that we stand*. It is *not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to thy mercy that we are saved*.

Hear our humble requests for others, as well as for ourselves. May the *Church of the living God* flourish in the earth. May sound doctrine be heard from her pulpits; holy living be seen among her members; peace be within her walls; and success attend the labours of all those, who are employed in her service.

We pray thee, O Lord, to visit with thy favour all places of public education; and especially, the universities of this land. May

they be nurseries of piety, as well as of science; that they who are educated in them, may become blessings to their country, in the stations to which thy providence may appoint them.

Be gracious, O Father of Mercies, to all who are in want, or any other kind of affliction: may their sorrows bring their sins to remembrance; may they remember their sins with true contrition of heart; and *in the multitude of their thoughts within them, may thy comforts delight their souls.*

We humbly intreat thee to enlighten those who are *sitting in darkness.* Turn those from the error of their ways, who are going forward in the *broad road which leadeth to destruction.* Be graciously pleased to recover those, who have gone back in the Christian course; and may we learn by their sad example, to resist the beginnings of evil.

O Lord, *strengthen us; uphold us* this day *with the right hand of thy righteous-*

ness; that we may not only be *kept from falling*, but be daily improving in holiness.

We humbly beseech thee to give thy blessing to all our labours. And while our hands are engaged in the affairs of this life, preserve thou our hearts from being unduly affected by them. O endue us with grace to follow our earthly employments, with a heavenly mind.

These requests we humbly present in the Name of our only Mediator and Advocate; *Christ Jesus the righteous*; in whose comprehensive words we further address thee, saying,

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

For Forgiveness.

O MOST gracious God, *be merciful to us sinners.* With such a prayer doth it become fallen creatures to appear before thee; and, blessed be thy Name, it is a prayer which, if it come from the heart, thou never wilt reject.

O that every one of us may perceive, that this is the right way of approaching thee. Do thou affect our minds with such a sense of our sinfulness, as shall lead us, with true contrition of heart, to sue for a full and free forgiveness. We can offer no excuse for sin; we can make no satisfaction for it; we are debtors who *have nothing to pay*: O Lord, do thou *frankly forgive us.*

Blessed be thy name, that *there is mercy with thee*—that there is mercy *for us*, if we

seek it in thine own appointed way. Thou teachest us to seek for it, in and through the mediation of thy dear Son. And through pride of heart shall we *stumble at that stone*, which thou *hast laid for a Foundation?* O be it far from us! Thankful for such an *advocate with thee, as Jesus Christ the righteous*, we commit our cause into his hands; and humbly trust, that, for his sake, *our sins though many will be forgiven.*

But grant, O Lord, that while we rely on the intercession of Jesus, for the remission of our past sins, we may ever remember, that he came to *renew us unto holiness*, as well as to take away our guilt. O let us partake largely of that grace, which maketh the pardoned offender ashamed of his former ways, and filleth his heart with the most earnest desires of *sinning no more.*

We bless thee, O God of mercy, for the declarations so frequently made in thy word, of thy willingness to forgive. On these declarations may we rest in peace; and trust

in him who saveth the soul from death, to be our supporter under all inferior evils. For although thou pardonest our iniquities, yet it may seem good unto thee, not to exempt us from trials. O suffer us not when under them, to *cast away our confidence*. Let us listen to thy rebukes; but enable us still to rely on thy mercy, and to derive comfort from thy promises.

And inasmuch as our troubles often proceed from our own folly or negligence, *instruct us, O God, and teach us in the way in which thou wouldest have us to go*, that we may not bring ourselves into difficulties. May we be always waiting on thee with simplicity for thy guidance; and with alacrity, obey the first intimations of thy will.

Let there be no want of teachableness in us, with respect to any part of our duty. May the language of our hearts always be, *Lord, what wouldest thou have us to do*. Deliver us from pride, obstinacy, and prejudice. May we be glad to receive instruc-

tion from our Christian brethren. May we be patient of reproof, and thankful for godly counsel.

We bless thy holy Name, if we be in any measure truly desirous of thus framing our hopes and conduct according to thy holy word. And we intreat thee to have mercy on all those, whom ignorance, pride, or stubbornness of heart, keep yet far from thee.

O Lord, if there be any reason to believe, that we are not in such a state, it is to thy power over our hearts that we must ascribe the difference. Let not what grace hath done for us, make us forget what we are by nature. But calling to mind the blessings which we have received this, and every day of our lives, and how unworthy we are of them all, let us ascribe them to their true cause, and say, *Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to thy name be the praise.*

Preserve us this night, O Lord, from all evil, and may we be raised up from our beds

in the morning, to praise thee for new mercies bestowed on us, through the intercession of thy dear Son our Lord; who taught us thus to call upon thy name:

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

That we may not be left to Ourselves.

ALMIGHTY God, we humbly intreat thee to look in mercy upon us thy unworthy creatures, whom thou hast repeatedly preserved from evil.

We thank thee for guarding and refreshing us during the past night, and for bringing us safe to the beginning of this day. But, O Lord, we stand in need of thy care over us still; for we are too weak to be left to ourselves. It was thy hand which raised us up from the bed; and now we need that

hand to lead us all through the day, that we may be *kept from falling. Hold thou up our goings, that our footsteps slip not.*

Wherever we are, be thou with us, as a *God of Grace.* Let us do nothing that would provoke thee to depart from us: For then our light and our strength would be gone. O lead us all in that holy path, in which thy presence is obtained and enjoyed; and whenever we are tempted to turn aside from it, preserve us from falling into the snare.

O thou *keeper of Israel,* who hast apprized us of the designs and *the devices of Satan,* suffer us not to be deceived by them. Guard every sense and every faculty of our nature, that they may not become inlets to his temptations. Let the fear of our God operate powerfully in our hearts, regulating the exercise of our eyes, our ears, our tongues, our feet, and all our mental as well as bodily faculties; that our enemy may not *get an advantage of us* by the forbidden use of them.

And forasmuch as *pride goeth before a fall*, enable us to live habitually mindful of our weakness: never confiding in our own powers, but in thy *grace, which is* alone *sufficient for us*: for, O Lord, *when we are* thus *weak* in ourselves, *we are strong*.

Thus depending on thy help, would we go forth this morning. However difficult the duties of this day may be, thou canst enable us to discharge them. We are aware, that circumstances may occur, which require strong faith, great patience, zeal, or self-denial; but we may call upon thee. O look upon our spiritual, as well as upon our temporal wants; and make us to know, that thy power and mercy are as great as our necessities.

We humbly beg, O Lord, that we may partake of the *joys of thy salvation. Though we see not Jesus* with our bodily eyes, *yet may we love him; and believing in him, may we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.* But should we be afflicted with melancholy thoughts, do thou support us while

under the trial; and whatever we suffer during its continuance, make it produce a good effect upon us in the end. O Lord, the pleasures as well as the power of religion are thy gifts: let us look to thee for them, and acknowledge thy mercy in the enjoyment of them.

Finally, we pray thee, to give us more and more of thy grace; that we may live more devoted to thy will, that we may better employ our time, and our talents, and that we may more effectually *show forth the praises of him, who hath called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.*

Hear, O merciful God, and answer, for the sake of our blessed Mediator and Advocate.

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

For a true Conversion of the Heart to God.

O GLORIOUS GOD, what are we that we should presume to lift up our eyes unto thee! We have *gone astray like lost sheep.* We have broken thy laws, notwithstanding they are *holy, just, and good.* We have forgotten the Lord, our Creator and our Benefactor: Yet *there is mercy with thee*; the sinner hath an *advocate with the Father*; and if he desire to return to God, the way is open.

How justly mightest thou give us up to ourselves. Justly mightest thou leave us without any other help or comfort, than this vain and empty world could afford. But though *sin aboundeth, thy grace much more aboundeth.* When we apply to thee for help, thou dost not send us back to our idols, but *receivest us graciously: thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortest us.*

And now, O most merciful Lord, *what manner of love is this!* Shall we not be filled with wonder and thankfulness for such abundant grace! Praised be that power, which turneth the transgressor's heart. Adored be that wisdom, which devised a method of salvation by which he could be received again into the favour of his Creator.

O grant that every one of this house may partake of this grace. Behold us as a family, intreating thee not to leave us to our own corrupt inclinations; not to suffer our hearts to be seduced by the vanishing *pleasures of sin*, or by any thing else which this world may promise. *With thee is the fountain of life:* O lead us to it; that we may taste its refreshing water, and know by experience the happiness of returning to thee.

We pray thee likewise to keep those of us whom thou hast recovered to thyself, from ever *forsaking thee, the fountain of living waters*: Though brought to a deep sense of religion, we are yet frail creatures, and have need to *watch and pray.* Keep us humble,

and circumspect, and afraid of falling into the snares, from which thy grace hath delivered us. May we not have to learn again, that forbidden pleasure hath a sting; let it be enough for us, to have once felt it. May our souls refuse to taste of sinful joys; remembering, that although there may be a momentary sweetness in them, they leave behind them great bitterness, and enduring pain.

We pray thee to increase in us a desire after better pleasures than those of the world. Let not that *hungering and thirsting after righteousness*, which thy Holy Spirit exciteth in the soul, ever abate. And may we be so satisfied with the blessings which thy word setteth before us, as to feel no inordinate desire after other things.

But thou hast taught us to be concerned for the welfare of others, as well as for that of ourselves. We therefore humbly beseech thee, to look with thy wonted compassion on all those who are still *as sheep going*

astray; and bring them *to the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls.*

We implore thy forgiveness, O Lord, before we retire to rest; for we stand in continual need of it. But although we have at all times reason thus to humble ourselves before thee, yet thou art from day to day pouring down thy blessings upon us; and encouraging us by thy providential goodness, as well as by the declarations of thy word, to commit ourselves to thy care. This, O Lord, we now do, in the name of that blessed Saviour, through whose mediation we hope, unworthy as we are, to find acceptance with thee.

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

General Thanksgiving.

GREAT and holy God, when we approach thee with the tribute of praise, we would remember, that we can add nothing to thee: But we ought to acknowledge thy perfections; and we take pleasure in ascribing all power, wisdom, holiness, and goodness, to thee our gracious Creator.

O thou who condescendest to receive praise from unworthy creatures, be pleased to accept our thanksgivings. We glorify thee for all thy mercies; but especially for the blessings which thou hast given to us through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; in whom, thou hast revealed thyself *rich in mercy to all who call upon thee.*

Lord, what is man, that thy beloved Son should take upon him the nature, the sins, and the sorrows, of this frail worm! We

would be thankful for all that he did; for the *doctrine* he taught, the *example* that he set us, and the *sacrifice* that he made of himself for our sakes. We bless thee for his *resurrection*, for his *ascension*, for his sending down the *Holy Ghost*, and appointing a standing *ministry* in his church.

And while, O Lord, we thankfully recount these things, we pray that we may make such a devout and useful application of them to ourselves, as shall fulfil the purposes for which they are made known to us. May we draw comfort from our Saviour's doctrine. May we copy his life, and live by his death. May we *rise with him* now, in holiness; and, in due time, ascend after him into the world of glory. And till that blessed hour shall come, may we be living a *life of* habitual *faith in the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himself for us.*

May the name of our God be for ever adored, for sending the *gospel of peace* into these lands. Blessed be thy name for its holy precepts, its instructive examples, and its exceeding *great and precious promises.*

We thank thee for the comfortable prospects which the Holy Scriptures give of a future state. Let us rejoice in the hope, which all true Christians have, of *being with Christ, and of beholding his glory.* May we be increasing daily in longing desires after this blissful state, and endeavour to become more meet for it every day.

In calling thy mercies to mind, let us not forget, that we have many temporal blessings to acknowledge. Of these comforts, we enjoy more than we deserve; of afflictions, we suffer less than we deserve. Accept then, O most gracious Lord, our thanks for all the health, and strength, and peace, enjoyed in this house. And if to these temporal comforts, thou hast added the blessing of a sanctified heart, how much greater still is the debt of gratitude! O grant to each of us, that prime blessing, which teacheth us how to value every other favour.

And now, O thou giver and preserver of all these blessings, we humbly pray thee to bless the rising generation with thy grace.

*[And among them look down in mercy on these children kneeling before thee.] Incline their hearts to *seek thee early*. Keep them from being deceived by the world. May they perceive the littleness of its great things; the poverty of what appears rich; and the poison that is mixed with many of its pleasures.

Bless our servants. May they know how much they are bound to be thankful, that in thy good Providence they are placed in a family which calleth upon thy name. And may they so improve this, and every other religious advantage, as to show that they are faithful servants of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Keep us all this day, O Lord, endeavouring, in our several vocations, to serve thee with simplicity and singleness of heart; *neither slothful in business, nor overcharged with the cares of this world.* Support us in our Christian course; and enable us daily to

* The words between the brackets to be omitted, if there be no children present.

rejoice in the prospect of that blessed state, in which those who *die in the Lord shall rest from their labours.* Hear us, we humbly beseech thee, in the words with which thy blessed Son taught us to approach the throne of grace:

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

For Stedfastness in Religion.

HOW manifold are thy mercies, most good and gracious God! Accept, we beseech thee, our thanksgivings for all the benefits which we have received this day.

Great and many are the blessings of the present life which thy bountiful hand hath bestowed; but these are but a *part of thy ways* of mercy: to these comforts thou hast added that inestimable blessing, the light of

the glorious gospel. We thank thee, gracious Lord, for the revelation of thy mercy in Christ Jesus, through whom, all our unrighteousness may be forgiven; our hearts sanctified; and our minds made to *rejoice in God all the day long.*

O may we *receive thy word with all readiness of mind,* and know it to be the *power of God to our salvation.* May we not only assent to the truth, but be determined by it. Never let us be *ashamed of Christ, or his words.* Whether condemned or approved by men, may we *stand fast in the Lord,* and *cleave to him with purpose of heart.*

Guard us, O Lord, against the snares of those, who *lie in wait to deceive.* Let no false light lead us astray. Let not our *minds be corrupted from the simplicity which is in Christ.*

O preserve us likewise from that *love of this present world,* which hath made so many *err from the faith.* Do thou not only keep us stedfast in the profession of the truth; but

preserve us likewise from the sin and misery of a *divided heart*. Be thou ever the chief *desire of our souls*; that there may be no returning relish for those things, which are the food of distempered minds. Let *thy loving-kindness be better to us than life*; and may we be so *abundantly satisfied with the goodness of thy house*, as to have no wish to be any where else, nor a single desire for any thing but what thou seest to be good for us.

O how much do we need the continual influence of thy Holy Spirit, to keep alive in us these spiritual desires. We beseech thee to give unto us this grace day by day. Grant us *the spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*. Keep open our eyes to the *great things of thy law*. Keep alive our concern *to be found of Christ in peace*, when he shall come to call us hence. And stir us up to more diligence in that great work of salvation, in which we have never yet been so much in earnest as we ought.

O Lord, we need not declare to thee what we have been this day; *thou knowest our*

foolishness, and our faults are not hidden from thee. Thou knowest how much of God, and how much of the world, there hath been in our hearts; O that *we* may but know it, and be affected as we ought to be, to perceive, that nature is so strong, and grace so weak in us!

But though small is the effect of all that thou hast taught us, in comparison of what it ought to be, yet thou continuest still to preserve and bless us. This night we confess our own unfruitfulness, and thine abundant and undeserved goodness to us. Let us wonder and adore.

O God of infinite patience and mercy, we commend ourselves, and all for whom we are bound to pray, to thy protection this night; beseeching thee to forgive us, and accept us, for the sake of thy dear Son our Lord; who instructed us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

For Faith and its Fruits.

O GOD our refuge and our strength, by whose providence our natural life is preserved, and by whose grace we obtain life eternal; look down upon this family, now assembled to acknowledge thy gracious care over us during the last night, and to request that thy blessing may rest upon us all through this day.

May we lift up our hearts to thee in faith and hope, as unto one, who will assuredly hear the prayers of those, who come to thee in the name of thy dear Son. When we ask for blessings, do thou *look upon the face of thine anointed*, and for his sake hear, and forgive, and answer thy servants.

We bless thee for the many encouraging words which thou hast uttered for the comfort of penitent minds: *O God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing* them.

Enable us to exercise a full confidence in thy power and grace. Let nothing hinder us from *coming to Jesus*, and obtaining that rest, which he promiseth to the weary and heavy-laden. We would approach thee with a truly *contrite heart*; but suffer us not to doubt of Christ's being able and willing *to save to the uttermost*. Our sins, alas! have *abounded*; but *thy grace hath much more abounded*: may we rejoice in this from day to day.

But never let us abuse the *riches of thy grace*. Art thou able to destroy, and yet willing to save? O let thy mercies constrain us to *present ourselves a living sacrifice to thee*. May we henceforth live as those who are *not their own*, but thine.

Look in mercy upon us, now going forth to our several vocations. May we be so taught to know *what is good for us*, as to be thankful that we have an employment. Let us never resist that appointment of thy wisdom and goodness, which obligeth man to be found in some lawful calling. May we

enter upon our business with cheerfulness, and pursue it with diligence. Vouchsafe us, O Lord, the blessings which generally attend diligence; but save us from the snares of that prosperity, with which it is sometimes followed.

Suffer us not to forget where we are; but ever remembering that we are in a wicked and ensnaring world, may we stand on our guard: And do thou, O Lord, *keep us from the evil that is in it.* May *Christ dwell in our hearts by faith,* that through him we may *overcome the world.*

And O that we may live as *the servants of Christ,* as long as we continue here. May we show by our conduct, that *we are seeking a better country, even a heavenly one.* Let not the men of the world, see thy professed disciples pursuing the perishing things of this life, as eagerly as themselves.

Enable us to live daily in the exercise of christian tempers; not only *rendering unto all, what is due* to them, but endeavouring, while we *have time, to do good unto all men.*

O that we may learn *to be content with whatsoever state we are in.* Let those who rule in this house, and those who serve in it, obtain grace to perform their respective duties with cheerfulness and fidelity. And may we *live in love one toward another.* Let thy fear dwell in every heart; that every one may keep his place, and be happy and useful in it.

May it please thee to have mercy upon all men. *Give the King thy judgments, O Lord.* "Endue thy ministers with righteousness." Let thy light and thy truth spread every where. Preserve the prosperous from forgetting thee their God. Keep the afflicted from sinking under their burdens; and make their trials to *work for their good.* These blessings, we ask in the name of Jesus the Mediator; who taught us to address thee, in these words,

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

A Prayer for Magistrates.

" We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord." We bless thee for repeated and continued mercies; and we pray, that every renewed instance of thy goodness, may lead us to live a more humble, holy, and thankful life.

We would call to remembrance our obligations to thee, for appointing our lot in a land, in which there are those comforts of order and regular government which we have this day enjoyed. Since thou favourest us with the benefits of this thine ordinance, O Lord, may we be thankful for them; and never provoke thee by our sins, to withhold these blessings from us.

Give us grace to be always attentive to the duties we owe to those, whom thou hast set over us. Thou hast commanded us to *honour* them, and to *pray* for them; suffer

us not to sin against thee by neglecting these duties.

Let thy blessing descend on "all chris-" tian Kings, Princes, and Governors; and "especially on thy servant our King." We would, with a truly christian concern, recollect the dangerous temptations, and weighty duties of his situation. O Lord, afford him the assistance of that grace, of which he standeth in need, both for the salvation of his soul, and the able discharge of the duties of his high station.

O thou *from whom every good and perfect gift cometh*, direct him in the choice of all those whom he appointeth to places of trust, whether civil or ecclesiastical. And make them faithful in their vocations; that through their virtuous and able conduct, they may be the happy and honoured instruments of preserving the lives, enlarging the comforts, and saving the souls of his people.

We pray thee, O Lord, to bless the King in his family, as well as in his government.

Bless the Queen, with the comforts of health, domestic happiness, and religion. Bless likewise all the royal offspring; especially the Heir apparent. And may they all have grace, to employ their influence for the glory of thy holy name.

And we pray thee, O Lord, to give unto our Sovereign the *comforts* of well-ordered government, as well as the gifts that are necessary to his high office. Let not evil men be suffered to defeat his good designs, or to disturb his peace. May he be blessed with an obedient and loyal people. Ever may it be the earnest wish of his heart to see order, peace, plenty, and true religion, flourishing in his kingdom; and ever may he rejoice in seeing thy Divine Providence shower down these blessings on his subjects.

We must confess that we have rendered ourselves unworthy of these national blessings. But still remember us, O Lord, in mercy; and may we as a nation return to thee, from whom we have in many things de-

parted; that we may continue to be a favoured people.

And above all, we earnestly beseech thee to save us from that most dangerous of national sins, the neglect of the Gospel. O pour out upon us such a measure of the grace of thine illuminating Spirit, as shall make the nature and glory of christianity more generally understood. May the *truth as it is in Jesus* be heard from all our pulpits. To that name *at which every knee shall bow*, may honour be paid in courts, in senates, in churches, and among all ranks and orders of men. And may the deliberations and resolutions of Government be directed to the furtherance of that knowledge and practice, in which our Lord and Saviour Christ hath instructed us.

Let thy blessing attend the labours of all those among us, who are devoted to thee in the christian ministry. Increase the number of them who are *not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ*; and may their lives show forth the excellency of their doctrines.

With these favours, we pray thee to bless all the nations of the earth. O send forth into every part of the world that holy word of thine, which teacheth us to *fear God*, to *honour the King*, to *love the Brotherhood*, and to *render to all, their dues.*

Hear these our humble requests, O God of mercy; and grant us both protection and forgiveness, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Acknowledging our Unfruitfulness.

O THOU most merciful God, under the *shadow of whose wings* we have passed the night in safety, be pleased to accept the thank-offerings with which we begin this day.

We acknowledge it a great mercy, that *we are all here before God* this morning. May we seriously consider, that the day which thou hast given to us, is a day of probation; enable us to enter upon it as such: And may we earnestly look up to thee for *grace to serve thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear.*

O Lord, how much doth thy goodness as well as thine authority, oblige us thus to live! But alas! we are too little affected by it. If it were not so, the many favours we receive from thy hand, would lead us to a more obedient life: *Time* would be better spent, *Talents* better employed, the *Gospel* more honoured, and our *heavenly Father* more glorified.

O God, *to us belongeth confusion of face;* but well is it for us, that *to thee belong mercies and forgiveness.* We bless thee for a Mediator; for the *blood that cleanseth from all sin;* and for the hope which we derive from our Saviour's *ever living to make intercession for us.* Through him would we approach

thee; humbly hoping that for his sake, thou wilt forgive all our sins.

But we come to thee, not only for pardon, but also for grace, to *go and sin no more.* Lord, hear this request, with which we begin the day; and grant, that our desires and endeavours all through it, may correspond with this prayer.

O cast us not away from thy presence, nor take thy Holy Spirit from us. Be thou our guide, or we shall wander from the paths of peace. Leave us not to ourselves; for our frequent falls have taught us to fear, that unless we have thy support we shall not stand.

Remember how strong the corruption of nature is; and impart unto us *grace sufficient* to overpower every sinful inclination. Remember how forcible example is; and preserve us from being *led away with the error of the wicked.* Remember the craft and vigilance of our spiritual adversary; and suffer him not to *get an advantage of us.*

Fill our souls, O Lord, with a holy reverence of thine all-seeing eye; that we may be preserved from every thing offensive in thy sight. Give us the wisdom to shun every place, every person, and every thing, which may lead to that which is evil. Suffer not our minds to be deceived; but above all, let not our hearts be hardened. *Keep back thy servants* from all sins, but especially *from presumptuous sins.*

We are now entering on the last day of another week; O that it may be the best day! For there is indeed great room for improvement; Lord, make us more zealous of it!

We intreat thee to assist all thy ministers this day, in their endeavours to be prepared for the service of the approaching Sabbath.

And may *we* be seeking to be prepared for thy word: not only putting the affairs of this life in such order to-day, as shall prevent their interrupting us to-morrow; but also

looking up to thee for that *preparation of heart*, with which we ought to attend thine ordinances.

Hear, Lord, in heaven thy dwelling place, and answer, and forgive, for thy dear Son's sake, who taught us thus to pray:

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

For the renewing Influence of Divine Grace.

LET *the living praise thee*, O God; let them sing aloud of thy forbearance and long-suffering. We are yet numbered with them; and are bound to acknowledge, that *it is of thy mercies, that we are not consumed.*

O God, merciful and gracious, thou art not only *slow to anger*, but able and willing to save. Hence all our hope. Thy holy

law we have broken; and can make no atonement for our guilt. Nor is it a single transgression that we have to deplore, but a depraved nature. Unless renewed by thy Holy Spirit, our understanding, our will, and our affections, are all in disorder. We are, alas! *wise to do evil*, and active in pursuit of the goods of this world; but toward God, we are *foolish and disobedient;* we are *dead in trespasses and sins.*

But life and death are both in thine hands: If thou *sayest to us live*, thy word shall assuredly make us live. O speak then, the gracious word; that we may not merely be deterred by the fear of punishment from the grosser acts of sin; but *delight in thy law*, and endeavour to please thee in all things.

But how can we speak with due admiration of thy grace, in not only being *long suffering toward us*, but offering to admit us into communion with thee. Thou *dost stand at the door and knock*, saying, *If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in and*

sup with him. Is it to a poor mortal thou speakest thus, O Lord? Is it to a sinful worm? O what condescension! Enter within our door, Heavenly Guest! Take up thine abode in our hearts. *We are not worthy that thou shouldest come under our roof*; but since thou art willing to enter, let it be a *habitation for thyself.*

And never may we provoke thee to leave us, O thou our best friend, by the allowance of any unholy temper, or the neglect of any duty. Let us be always listening to thy word; always obedient to the motions of thy Holy Spirit; always watching against sin; and always praying to be kept from *falling into temptation.*

Thou hast conducted us to the conclusion of another week; for all the mercies of which, we desire to be thankful. *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.* Our last week, our last day, our last hour, must come: O that we may stand always ready for it.

Should we live to see another Sabbath, may we enter on the day with fervent desires to profit by it. Prepare our bodies, O Lord, by refreshing sleep, to attend the service of thy house. Prepare our hearts, by thine Holy Spirit, to worship thee with reverence, and to obtain great edification from the ministry of thy word. May we look forward to the Sabbath with earnest desire; and may the prospect of a *day spent in thy courts*, be always delightful to us.

Teach us, O Lord, to praise thee continually for that mercy, which led thee to set apart a day of rest, that we might hear the *glad tidings* of salvation. O let not one of us be ignorant of the value of this blessing. May we *hear thy word with joy*, and be prepared by the worship of thy courts below, to join that heavenly choir, which shall praise thee in the world of glory. These mercies we look for through Jesus Christ, our only hope. We have no claims to make, nor merit to plead, nor even a reason to offer why thou shouldest bestow one good thing upon

us, but what we derive through the mediation of Him who *died for our sins.* Encouraged by his intercession, we humbly wait for the fulfilment of those desires which he taught us to utter at thy footstool.

Our Father, &c.

THIRD WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

For a Blessing on the Ordinances of public Worship.

O LORD GOD, who hast in mercy given to us, thine unworthy creatures, another Sabbath, be graciously pleased to enable us to *keep it holy*. We bless thy name for all the opportunities which this day may afford us of obtaining *that wisdom which is from above*. Make us all sensible of the worth of our souls, that we may know how to value the means of grace.

O gracious Lord, be pleased to bless the assemblies of christian worshippers with thy presence; that the services of thy house may be conducted with such order, such an impressive sanctity, and such an improving

influence on our minds, as may convince us that *God is among us of a truth.*

O thou *who didst command the light to shine out of darkness*, in mercy *shine into our hearts;* that we may savingly *know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent,*

Shew forth on us thy new-creating power, O Lord, in causing us to *put off the old man with his deeds, and to put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

And may that blessed Saviour whom thou hast appointed to be a *light to lighten the Gentiles*, bring many *out of darkness into his marvellous light.* May he, who for our sakes was *a man of sorrows, see of the travail of his soul* this day, and rejoice in the recovery of many, who have hitherto been *as sheep going astray.*

Most gracious God, we bless thee for frequent opportunities of instruction; for en-

lightened and faithful ministers; for having *the things that belong to our peace* set before us. To these mercies, O Lord, we intreat thee to add the influence of thy quickening Spirit: that thy word may be still made to *humble* the proud, to *melt* the hardened, to *sanctify* the unholy, and *comfort* the distressed.

We thank thee, O God, that we are not deprived, by want of health, of the opportunity of attending thy house. We pray that our *souls*, as well as our *bodies*, may be prepared for the duties of the day. Give us a *thankful sense of thy mercies*; that we may praise thee with the heart as well as the lips. Give us a *contrite remembrance of our sins*; that our confessions may not be mere forms. Give us a *sense of our entire dependence on thee*; that our prayers may not be words of course, but the humble and earnest requests of creatures, who know and feel their necessities. Let us hear thy word with that devout attention which becometh those who have so much to learn, who are so liable to err, so prone to deceive themselves, and so

much in danger of being deceived by the world. Let us not only receive its instructions, but also taste the comforts which it imparteth to the humble hearer.

And we pray likewise, O Lord, that thou wouldest preserve us from failing in those private duties, with which public worship should be followed. Let us remember, that there is something which must be done in retirement: There, by serious meditation, by carefully reviewing our past lives, and by earnest prayer, may we seek to have our hearts established in thy truth.

Enable us to improve all the opportunities which this day may afford for offices of benevolence. Suffer us not to waste those hours in frivolous conversation, that may be so much more profitably employed, in exercises of devotion, or works of charity.

O Lord let not the *Sabbath be a weariness* to us. Deliver us from that wretched aversion to holy and spiritual employments, which is, alas! natural to us, and make this day *a*

delight to us. May we so enjoy all its duties, as to long for that eternal Sabbath, for which thy Church on earth is waiting.

O may we become more and more prepared for that blessed state. Whatever knowledge be wanting, whatever faith, whatever strength, impart it to us, O Lord. We are poor, but thou art rich. We are in ourselves empty of all good; but we come to thee, who art the fountain of all good, that we may be supplied. And for this we pray, in the name of our only Lord and Saviour, who taught us to call on thee in these words:

Our Father, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

That public Instruction may be made effectual to our Salvation.

SUFFER us not to come before thee, O Lord, with a light and trifling mind. Though

we are permitted to lift up our voices to thee, let us remember, that *thou art in heaven, and we are on earth*; that thou art *glorious in holiness*, but that we are *transgressors from the womb*.

O let the prayers and praises of a family of weak and sinful creatures be heard this night. Great and many are the blessings which we have received this day: let our souls be filled with humility, in recollecting how utterly unworthy we are of them; and make us thankful for that grace, which placeth us under the means of knowing how much we stand in need of them. Although we live *without God*, thou dost not leave us to such a life, without showing us its wretchedness, and its danger. Though we *turn our back* to thee, thou callest after us. We seek our happiness where it is not; but thou, in mercy, directest us where to find it.

O let not this mercy be shown to us in vain. Give effect to thy word, which we have heard this day; that we may learn

what thou teachest, and not only know the way of life, but walk therein.

Grant, O merciful Lord, that we may experience all the blessings which thy word holdeth forth to us, and be delivered from all the evils against which it testifieth. *Turn thou us, and we shall be turned.* Take away the *carnal mind, which is enmity against God*, the *evil heart of unbelief*, which leadeth us *to depart from thee;* the *deceived heart, which turneth us aside;* and *the stony heart*, which neither dreadeth thy wrath, nor desireth thy grace.

O Lord, let not one of us be destitute of that *new heart*, which fallen creatures need, and thy word instructs them to pray for; that being *created in Christ Jesus unto good works*, we may no longer live estranged from Thee, nor ever account thy *commandments grievous.*

We have great reason to be ashamed, O Lord, when we reflect on the little effect, which the revelation of thy mercy hath had

upon us. How little are our hearts impressed with the wonders of Redemption; with the love of God in *giving his Son for us;* with the compassion of that Saviour, who came down from heaven to die for us! What are we, after all that we have heard of the labours, the sorrows, and the pains, which he endured for our sakes!

O may thy Holy Spirit *shed abroad in our hearts,* more of *the love of God* than we have ever yet felt; that we may be so deeply affected *by thy mercies,* as to *present ourselves a living sacrifice* to thee. To Him, *who forgiveth all our iniquities, and healeth all our diseases,* who *redeemeth our life from destruction, and croweth us with loving kindness and tender mercies;* to Him be devoted all that we have, and all that we are; and let every one in this house say from his heart, Amen. O give us grace to make this surrender, and to continue faithful to it. Let it be *a perpetual covenant, never to be forgotten.*

Permit us, O gracious Father, to commend the necessities and dangers of all our fellow-

creatures to thy mercy. Let the light of thy Gospel shine upon those, who are now *sitting in darkness.* Look in mercy on those, who though not situated in heathen lands, are living without *Christ, without hope, and without God in the world.* Let all christian churches be watered with the dew of heaven. Hear the prayers offered up this day for all christian magistrates; especially those offered up for the King, whom thou hast set over us.

Hear the prayers, likewise, O Lord, which we offer up for the afflicted. O look thou upon those, who are destitute of health; on those, who stand in need of one to comfort them; and on those, who have not bread to eat. However various our wants, thou art able to supply them all, without diminishing thine own fullness. May we glorify thy mercy, as well as thy power, by believing, that thou art willing, as well as able, to give us the things that we need.

Vouchsafe rest and safety this night, O Lord, to us, to our dear relations, and to all

this neighbourhood, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. In his name, *O thou that hearest prayer*, we draw nigh to thee, and conclude our requests in the words which he taught us:

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

That the Influence of God's Word may continue.

HOLY and gracious God, we draw near again to the footstool of thy throne: for our wants are always returning upon us. Blessed be thy Name! thou art ever willing to supply them.

We thank thee for the instructions of thy holy word. Let us reckon them among the greatest blessings of our present state; and be daily praying to thee, that *our understanding may be opened* to receive them.

But, O Lord, we want strength as well as light. Though we *see* great things, yet we *follow* after little things. We discern substance, but we are not weaned from shadows: Carnal and worldly objects divert our attention from those which are spiritual and heavenly.

We therefore come to thee to request, that thou wouldest be pleased to make that heavenly seed which was sown yesterday, productive of much fruit. Let not the *flesh* overcome the *spirit;* nor the world drive out of our hearts the desires which were excited by thy word. Let that Saviour who hath *been evidently set forth before us,* be still present to our thoughts. Let us habitually remember his cross and passion; rejoice in his resurrection and ascension; trust in his mediation, and tread in his steps. Since we have heard of *things which are eternal,* let us not fix our eyes upon those only which are *temporal.* Nor let us *labour for the meat which perisheth,* as if there were nothing else worthy of our desires, but may we labour for *that which endureth unto everlasting life.*

Be with us, All-sufficient God, while employed in the duties of our respective callings. We look to thee for *our daily bread;* we need also a daily portion of grace. Vouchsafe us this blessing, we beseech thee, that we may neither be *overcharged by the cares of this life*, nor ensnared by its pleasures; that we may neither sink under its burdens, nor neglect its duties. Amidst all these things may we *make straight paths for our feet*, and in *thy strength* walk on steadily therein.

Be our deliverer from every thing that may be a hindrance to our salvation. Give us grace to sacrifice even the *right eye* that may ensnare us. Enable us to *lay aside every weight*, that we may *run the race that is set before us;* and strengthen us, that we may prevail over even *that sin which doth most easily beset us.*

Thus, O Lord, let *thy word abide in us*, and maintain its influence over our hearts. And thus bless not only us, but all who heard thy word yesterday. Let that grace, by which they were favoured with the ministry of the

Gospel, be further glorified, in bestowing on them a heart to think seriously on its great truths, and to pray earnestly for its inestimable blessings. And teach us all to set a proper value on thy word; not only holding it in high estimation, but honouring it likewise in our daily practice. May we through life faithfully follow its directions. Let us make it our companion in solitude, and enjoy it as our solace in affliction, through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

Complaining of the improper Influence which the World hath upon us.

MOST good and gracious God, thy patience and mercy toward sinners, encou-

rage us to approach thee. Unworthy as we are of the least of thy mercies, thy grace emboideneth us to come and ask for the continuance of that goodness, which we have often so ill requited, and yet so constantly experience.

We cannot look back, O Lord, upon any of our days, without seeing great cause of humiliation. Even the best of them will serve to show, that we stand in need of forgiveness. Though we may have been kept from *openly* transgressing thy laws, yet we see that we must still put our trust entirely in thy mercy; for when we enquire, how our hearts have been affected toward God through the day, O how forgetful of thee, do we find them to have been!

How long shall it continue thus with us! How long shall our minds be so much engaged by temporal things, and so little by those which are spiritual! O thou who art in heaven, look down upon us who are on earth, and draw our thoughts and affections toward thyself. Let our hearts be more

under the influence of religion. Here we see many *walking in a vain shadow, and disquieting themselves in vain*; O Lord, let it not be so with us.

Our life is but *a sojourning here*: enable us *to pass the time of it in fear* and faith; with circumspection and with hope. Suffer us not to *spend our money for that which is not bread, nor our labour for that which satisfieth not.* Let us not *follow after vain things*, nor look for our *rest* in a changing world; but may we *long to see thy goodness, O Lord, in the land of the living.* Let heaven be accounted our home; and thither may our desires be always tending.

We humbly beseech thee, in the Name of that Saviour who died for our sins, to forgive the earthliness of our minds; for we consider it not only as one of the sad fruits of our depravity, but as a sign that we have not duly improved by the light which thou hast afforded us. But it is not only forgiveness, but the cure of this evil, for which we are

now asking; O Lord, grant us this mercy also, for thy dear Son's sake.

We pray also, that all who *name the name of Christ*, *may depart from iniquity*, and *walk as children of the light and the day*. Pour out the grace of thy Holy Spirit on them; that they may *adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour* by their diligence, patience, zeal, and love. O grant that a cold and lifeless profession of religion may not content men. And if it appear in thy house, let it not pass unnoticed, nor unreproved, by the ministers of thy word.

And now, O Lord, do thou who hast been gracious to us this day, continue thy mercies to us through the night. Let no evil *come nigh our dwelling*, nor nigh the dwelling of any who are dear to us. We commend unto thee all those for whom we ought to pray; particularly beseeching thee to remember the children of affliction. May it please thee to enable them, O Lord, to lift up their eyes to thee, *from whom cometh our help;*

and from whom cometh not only present assistance, but *everlasting consolation, and good hope through grace.*

O gracious Father, pity the children of this world, who know not how to use prosperity, nor whither to go for sound comfort when they are in affliction. Send forth thy word, and enlighten *them that sit in darkness;* that they may know how to live, and how to die; how to enjoy with safety, and suffer with resignation. O let those whom thou hast blessed with this wisdom, be abundantly thankful for it, and live in the exercise of it to the end of their days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Deprecating the Departure of God from us.

O ADORABLE and ever blessed God, without whose help man is not only a feeble, but a miserable creature; look down upon us this morning, with thy wonted compassion. We are weak, but thou art Almighty. We deserve to suffer the evils to which we are exposed; but thy mercy is as great as thy power.

Happy is it for us, that though *we have destroyed ourselves, there is help in thee:* Lord, enable us to seek for that help. Let not *pride* make us blind to our wants and weaknesses; nor *despair* prevent our applying for what thy mercy hath provided for us.

O Lord, our misdeeds testify against us: but thy word declareth, that *there is forgiveness with thee.* Encouraged by this, we cast ourselves on thy mercy: for, O God of all

grace, we have no other resource. *To whom could we go, if thou, who* alone *hast the words of eternal life,* shouldest forbid us to approach thy throne!

Adored be thy goodness, that this hopeless case is not ours. We therefore draw near to thee. But we come in the name of thy dear Son, who died for our sins. Hear, O Father of mercies, the sinner's advocate in our behalf; that we may be *accepted* and blessed *in thy beloved* Son.

O Lord, it is not merely to be saved from punishment, that we make our prayer to thee; we beg not only that *thine anger may be turned away from us,* but that we may be delivered from all disaffection of heart to thy will, and thy ways.

Remember that antient promise of thine, and fulfil it to us: *I will take away the heart of stone, and give you an heart of flesh. O be it unto us according to* this *thy word.* Take away from us all that is stupid, all that is dark, all that is hardened; and give unto

us that wise and holy fear, which thou hast implanted in the hearts of thy children. And may this gracious principle be daily acquiring strength; that we may live in holiness, humility, and peace, under all our infirmities; and amidst all the temptations with which we are surrounded.

O Lord, bless us in our family intercourse. Unite our hearts to thee, and to one another. Make us to love thee above all, and may we love one another, for Christ's sake.

O be our defender this day. *All things are naked and open to thee.* Thou seest the snares that may be set for our feet; and thou knowest all our weakness; *O send us help from thy holy place. Leave us not, neither forsake us, O God of our salvation,* but be thou, all through the day, our *strength and our shield.*

And grant, O Lord, not only that we may be *kept from falling,* but that we may go forward in *the path of thy commandments.* Give new vigour to our best desires. *Renew*

our strength, that we may *press forward*; that we may proceed *from strength to strength*; and become daily more meet to sit down in thy kingdom.

Thus do thou bless *all who call upon thy Name*. Let not the *children of light be less wise in their generation, than the children of this world*: But may their earnestness in the things of religion be such as becometh the grandeur and glory of that great prize, which thou hast set before them. Lord, give this wisdom to all those who have it not, and increase it in all those who have received it; that however it may be with us as to the *outward man*, our better part may, amidst all changes, still *prosper and be in health*, through the continued grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; who taught us, when we pray, to use these words:

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

A General Prayer.

O GOD our Creator and Preserver, whose goodness is as great as thy power; graciously accept the worship of a family, which thou hast this day preserved from many evils, and blessed with many comforts.

May we be always ready to perform this *reasonable service.* Suffer us not to forget, O Lord, that while we are supported by the same hand which provideth food for all the inferior creatures, thou hast honoured us above them. It is our privilege, to see thee, our Creator, in the administration of thy *providence over all things*, and in the bestowments of our daily comforts. O let us take delight in employing our faculties to the honour of thy holy name.

We would acknowledge, most good and gracious God, our dependance on thee. We

would thankfully declare our daily obligations to love and to serve thee. And we intreat thee to accept our praises, imperfect as they are, for the blessings of which we have this day been partakers.

But, O great God, our necessities lead us to present ourselves before thee this evening: for we know of no *effectual* security, but in the care of divine Providence. *Except thou keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain.*

To thee, therefore, most merciful God, must we look for our preservation; for after we have done all that we can for our security, there will remain many evils to which we shall be exposed, and from which thou alone canst preserve us.

O thou whose favour is life, let it be our first concern to obtain this blessing; and do thou in mercy lead us in that way, in which it is to be found. Since thou hast expressly declared in thy word, that *there is no name given under heaven whereby we can be saved*

but that of thy blessed Son, suffer us not to disregard this important truth. Ceasing from all vain confidence, may we build our hope on that foundation, which thou thyself hast been pleased to lay.

And that we may not err, either in this, or any other matter relating to our salvation, let us not *lean to our own understanding*; but thankfully use the means which thou hast afforded for our instruction and comfort. May we submit to the dictates of thy word, with the simplicity of children; and rejoice in it, as a revelation adapted to all the wants of weak and sinful man.

As creatures passing from time to eternity, how great a value should we set upon religious knowledge; how seriously should we consider, that the present life is the season of obtaining it! O preserve all present from letting this season pass unimproved; and in mercy stay their departure hence, till they have discovered *the good and the right way*, which leadeth to peace, and to heaven.

And enable us to act suitably to the degree of religious knowledge, to which we may attain. Let us not *follow that which is evil*, after thou hast shown to us *that which is good;* but walk in that path which thou pointest out to us, and continue in it unto the end. So shall our lives be holy and happy: for thou, our merciful God, wilt be with us, to direct, to succour, and to bless us, both here and hereafter. Such hope have we, through Jesus Christ our Saviour; who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

For true Religion as a governing Principle.

O MERCIFUL GOD, the gracious author of our being, and the source of all that rendereth it comfortable; we assemble this morning, to acknowledge thy care over us during

the last night, and to request thy blessing upon us for the day.

To thee, O Lord, are we indebted for every blessing. Our health, our reason, our friends, our social and domestic comforts, our capacities, are all thy gifts. If we have any advantages above others, it is from thee that we received them.

Teach us devoutly to consider, what we owe to thee for these gifts. We are ready enough to look for returns of gratitude from those whom we have obliged: But O how apt are we to fall into a stupid unmindfulness of our divine Benefactor! How often do we fail of rendering what is due to him!

O how inexcusable is this forgetfulness: to be continually receiving benefits, and yet blind to the very hand which bestoweth them! Lord, deliver us from this stupid insensibility. May we see thine excellency, be thankful for thy goodness, and devoutly *regard* all the *operations of thy hand.*

And may a sense of thy greatness and goodness kindle in us an earnest desire to know thee more, and to be better informed how we may do honour to thy holy name.

O Thou who art the fountain of all wisdom, and who hast promised to impart it to those who sincerely seek for it, we beseech thee to be our instructor; for there is no teaching like thine. And do thou not only bless us with a right knowledge concerning *thyself*, but show us what *we* are, and what we ought to be; that we may see our true character, and learn to approach thee with the penitence and humility, which become offending creatures. May we be thoroughly convinced of the necessity of making thy mercy our only dependance; and look for it, through that appointed Mediator, to whom thy holy scriptures direct the eyes of sinful men, as their advocate with thee.

And grant, O Lord, that we may not only see where, as sinful creatures, we must begin, but be deeply concerned likewise to pursue the whole course of christian duties.

Sanctify our hearts; that we may endeavour to please thee. Give us grace to walk *according to the rule of thy word*, in all things. May we of this house be enabled to show that thy holy scriptures are not read here in vain. We know not what may befall us this day to tempt us to forget what they teach us: we therefore pray thee so to strengthen us by thy grace, that nothing, however trying, may cause us to depart from their instructions, or to lose their comforts.

May we all; in our respective places, act as in thy sight; so shall thy blessing rest upon this family: here *mercy and truth will* then *meet together*, and *rightcousness and peace embrace each other.*

We humbly intreat thee, to keep us this day from all evil. Keep, likewise, O Lord, all those, who are especially dear to us. Look with compassion on those who are troubled in mind, body, or estate; and grant that their *hearts may be opened* to receive the reproofs and instructions of thy word; that while they are stooping under the bur-

den of affliction, they may experience the comforts of religion. Remember all others for whom we ought to pray; and grant these our requests, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name and words we further address thee:

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

For Peace with God.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, thou art the source of all true happiness. From thee might we be continually deriving pleasure, peace, and joy. But we *forsake Thee, the fountain of living waters*; we transgress thy commandments: and then, doubts and fears take possession of our souls, and peace flies from our hearts.

Yet, O most good and gracious God, thou suppliest sinful man with the means of reconciliation with thee. We adore thee for thy compassion in sending thy beloved Son into the world, to deliver us from guilt and condemnation. We were not able to repair the breach which sin had made between thee and us; but thou hast raised up one, who could *make reconciliation for our iniquities*, and thereby restore a friendly communication between God and man.

To this blessed Reconciler help us to come, deeply repenting of all our offences; that we may obtain *remission of our sins, through his blood.* Enable us to come to him, resting on the gracious assurance, that *whosoever believeth on him shall not perish.* On thy word of promise, may we ground all our hope of obtaining acceptance with thee. And may we honour thy merciful declarations, by a full confidence in them; believing, that thou art not only able to save, but willing also to receive us into thy favour; infinitely as it is above our deserts to be so treated.

And grant, O Lord, that it may be more and more evident, that our reliance on thy word is no vain presumption, but that true and *living faith*, which is wrought in the heart by thy Holy Spirit. May we make it manifest that our faith is of this kind, by increasing in love to thee, and by the faithful performance of every duty which we owe to one another.

Suffer us not, O Lord, to grow remiss in these things; for if we do, we cannot expect to enjoy thy consolations. And if we go back in the path of holiness, let our peace of mind be interrupted; that the *rod with which our offences are visited*, may bring us back to thee.

If any of us are now *saying peace to ourselves* when there is no ground for peace, O put an end to the delusion. Let there not be *joy and gladness, when the Lord God of Hosts calls to weeping and mourning*: Rather let us go sorrowing all our days with a tender conscience, than be buoyed up with the un-

warranted joys of careless and presumptuous souls.

Everlasting thanks be rendered to thee for thy holy word, which showeth us the cause of our miseries, and the source of real happiness. We rejoice that it is preached among us; O give effect to it, that the eyes of men may be enlightened with just views of eternal things, and their hearts made to *rejoice in thy salvation.*

Let not thine awful denunciations against sin be disregarded; but may they awaken all who are exposed to them, to serious consideration of their danger. And we earnestly pray, that none who are brought to a sense of their sins, may either be driven to despair, or quieted by delusive views. O let peace in due time visit the troubled breast: But let it be that peace which is founded on thy word; and which none can enjoy, but those who *turn to thee with their whole heart.*

And that we may be preserved both from unreasonable fears, and presumptuous hopes,

give us grace to *meditate in thy law, day and night*, and to *pray without ceasing*, that every truth of thy word may effectually influence our hearts and lives; that being well grounded in the doctrines of truth, and *walking in thy fear* from day to day, we may feel a holy and substantial joy increasing in us, as we draw nearer and nearer to the end of our course.

Forgive, O merciful God, all the sins of this day, accept our thanks for all our blessings, and continue thine undeserved goodness to us this night, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Mediator and Advocate; instructed by whom, we thus conclude our humble requests:

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

For Grace to be followers of those, who through Faith and Patience have entered into eternal Rest.

O THOU ever blessed GOD, who art *righteous in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works*, teach us under all circumstances to honour thy Providence and Grace. *When we are full, let us not forget the Lord our God.* When our *heart is overwhelmed*, lead us to thyself, *the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.*

Thou canst make our greatest sufferings beneficial to us. Thou knowest how to make poverty a blessing; thou canst give us reason to be thankful for pains and sickness; and from death, thou art able to take away all that is dreadful. How many of thy servants, O Lord, hast thou made to *triumph over this last enemy!* accompanying them in the dark valley, and enabling them to pass through it,

fearing no evil. O praised be the name of our God, who taketh away *the sting of death,* and giveth to his dying servants *a victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Whenever we hear of these things, (and especially when we ourselves are witnesses of them) let us not fail to learn the important lessons in which they instruct us. Thou teachest us hereby, the value of a *good hope through grace*; and we see what a *refuge thou art in the day of trouble,* to those who trust in thee. And shall we see this, without reflection and prayer? O Lord, whenever we see, or hear of, a dying saint *rejoicing in thy salvation,* let each of us say with ardent desire, *bless me, even me also, O my Father.*

And when thou art pleased to call those hence, who are dear to us, give us grace to surrender them up to thee, in a right spirit. Let not our grief for the loss of even the *excellent of the earth,* exceed its due bounds. Enable us to give thanks to thee for not having taken them away from us sooner. Instead of employing our thoughts on the loss of their

company, let us employ them on the examples they have left us. Let us remember, how they showed us the *way of peace*. Let us remember how thou didst strengthen them to resist the influence of general wickedness. Let us not forget the *patience* thou gavest them in *suffering*, and the *composure* with which they were blessed in *death*. And by the recollection of these things, may we be encouraged and excited to pray for *that grace which made them what they were*.

O let us be partakers with those, *whom thou hast set apart for thyself*. Shed upon us that light, with which thou hast blessed them. Renew our souls, as thou hast renewed theirs. Give us that *repentance towards God*, that *faith in our Lord Jesus Christ*, and that *love to* GOD *and man*, which thou hast wrought in their hearts; that we walking as they walk, may find God with us, as he hath ever been with his servants, a *light*, a *glory*, and a *defence*.

Look, O Lord, upon all in this house, and suffer not the eyes of any one to be dazzled

with the false glory of this perishable world. Look, especially, on the younger branches of this family, and let not their inexperienced minds be led away by the deceitful appearances of present things. Give them grace to *seek thee early, that they may be glad and rejoice all their days.* O that *from this time, they may* each one *cry unto thee, My Father! thou art the guide of my youth.*

Teach us, O Lord, by every instance of human mortality, to *cease from man*, and to fix our dependance on Him, who sayeth to his Church, *Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.* What though our tender Parents die; what though the *Friend who is as our own soul*, or the Pastor by whose care and labours we were edified, be taken from us; *Jesus ever liveth:* And he *ever liveth to make intercession for us.* O that every stroke which separateth the creature from us, may serve to unite us more closely to the Creator: On him may we live. To whom shall the widow or the orphan look, but to Him, who is *the same yesterday*,

to day, and for ever: and who is able to *make all things work together for good.*

Gracious Lord, let us not *look* only *on the things which are temporal; but on those* also *which are eternal:* and let the things of eternity have more influence on us. On all occasions may we remember, *that the time is short,* and that it becometh us to *weep as though we wept not; and to rejoice, as though we rejoiced not.* Let not our hearts be improperly affected, nor our attention be called off from the great business of life, by any of the events of the present state. May we daily remember that our Lord is coming; and like faithful, diligent, and happy servants, may we *gird up the loins of our mind, be sober, and hope to the end, for the grace that is to be brought unto us at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* Amen.

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

A Prayer for Growth in Grace.

HELP us to draw near to Thee, O thou *searcher of the heart, with reverence and godly fear.* Though we are permitted to approach thy throne, let us not forget how utterly unworthy we are of this favour; and when we address ourselves to thee, let us not only utter the penitent sinner's language, but feel likewise his contrite heart.

How ought we to *blush and be ashamed to lift up our faces unto thee,* O most holy God! Day after day bringeth some new proof of thy goodness, and layeth upon us some new obligation to *love and serve thee:* but we still remain weak and sinful creatures; producing but few and feeble signs of zeal in thy service, or *love to thy name.*

O thou good Physician of the soul, look upon our disordered nature. Canst not thou

strengthen that which is weak, and *heal* that which is diseased? We believe, O Lord, that thou art not only able, but willing to *fill us with all spiritual blessings.* But we fail in seeking to thee for these things. We know that we stand in need of them; but we have too little of that *hungering and thirsting after* them, which thou hast promised to satisfy.

O strengthen our too languid desires. Make us *fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.* Let us not forget *how much* we have to do, and *how little* there may be left of life. Suffer none of us to *shorten* the time which thou hast given to us for the work of salvation, by making it *late* ere we begin; and when we begin, O may we *press forward toward the mark for the prize of our high calling,* with great earnestness.

And grant, O Lord, that those who have begun to live to thee, may be preserved from overrating their attainments in religion. Let us not lose sight of what there may be still wanting in us; how much there may be yet

to subdue, to bring down, or to cast out. O show us where we stand; that we may be filled with shame at perceiving how little progress we have made, and be excited to greater diligence.

Guard us, O Almighty Defender, from the influence of every thing that may bring on any indifference of heart toward thee. Preserve us from *all corrupt principles.* Keep us from engaging in any ensnaring *employment.* Let us not follow any *customs,* nor be led into any *connections,* which may deprive us of that simplicity and earnestness, with which a Christian should follow his Lord and Saviour.

Blessed be thy name for all the enjoyments of this day. To thee, gracious Lord, we look for preservation this night. Let the *blood of Jesus Christ cleanse us from all our sins*; and the Spirit of God work in our hearts a true repentance of every unholy thought, word, and action. May all who are dear to us, lie down on their beds with these desires.

We commend all the children of men to thee, O God of grace: beseeching thee, to supply their several wants; but especially their spiritual wants. O that *thy way may be known upon earth, and thy saving health among all nations.*

Hear us, we beseech thee, most merciful Lord, in these our humbe requests, which we conclude in the words in which our Saviour taught us to addtess thee:

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

That we may improve by what we are taught in the Sufferings of Christ.

O LORD, thy judgments are unsearchable, and thy ways past finding out! Something we know of thee: but it is because thou hast revealed thyself to man. Thou knowest his

ignorance, and in compassion to his soul, thou instructest him; that he might savingly know that God *with whom he hath to do.*

Yet who can comprehend all thy ways? Nor are thy ways of mercy the least of those wonders, which we ought devoutly to admire. O *what is man that thou shouldest be mindful of him!* Seeing we *forsook thy covenant*, and *like sheep went astray* from thee, why were we not left to be *filled with our own* wretched *devices!*

O Lord, we have no words that will sufficiently express the greatness of that mercy, which thou hast displayed in the redemption of man. May we be deeply affected with *the riches of thy grace;* that our hearts may adore thee, though our lips cannot utter the half, nor the thousandth part of thy goodness.

Thou hast opened a *door of hope* to us through the sufferings and death of thy dear Son: Enable us to enter it. And impress our hearts with a due sense of what we owe

to Him, who *gave himself for us.* Let the name of that Friend, who was *wounded for our transgressions,* be ever dear to us. Fix it deeply in our memory, that whatever else we forget, we may always remember with devout affection *the great love wherewith he loved us.*

And while we thankfully embrace the benefits of his death, let our souls be deeply impressed with thy holy displeasure against sin, which we are taught by the sacrifice of Christ. Did he *suffer for sin,* and shall we think lightly of it? Far be it from us! O let us not dare to repeat those *offences, for which* our Saviour *was delivered up to* death.

Grant, O Lord, that we may learn and practise every lesson, which we are taught by the sufferings of our Redeemer.

May the contemplation of a Saviour offering himself up for our redemption, raise our minds above the shadows and trifles, on which we are apt to employ them.

Incline our hearts, O Lord, to practise that love to our neighbour, which we are taught at the foot of the cross. Ever remembering that the *good shepherd laid down his life for the sheep*, let us never *shut up our bowels of compassion against our brother*. Let thine Holy Spirit implant in us *that mind that was in Christ*; that we may *love one another with a pure heart fervently*, and ever account it *more blessed to give than to receive*.

And since thou hast not *withheld thine only Son from us*, let us not refuse to surrender any thing, which thou mayest call us to resign. If thou *takest away*, let us remember what thou hast *given*.

Let us learn, by the meek example of a persecuted Master, to suffer with patience, whenever we have to taste of the cup of affliction. Let the remembrance of our sins, and our Saviour, silence all complaints; and may we be principally concerned to show, how he who patiently bore his own cross, hath taught us to carry ours.

And we pray, that not only we, but that others also may look to a crucified Saviour for eternal life. Since our Lord hath been *lifted up* may *all men be drawn to him.* Let his Gospel be published in every nation; that there may be great joy in every part of the world. *Give him*, O Father, *the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession.*

And may that blood which was *shed for the remission of sins*, plead for the pardon of those crimes with which the christian name hath been disgraced. Forgive the sins by which the doctrine of a holy and benevolent Saviour, hath been misrepresented to heathen nations. And grant, that none of us may ever have to answer for causing *the way of truth to be evil spoken of.*

Help us to live, this and every day, in the comforting and sanctifying hope of seeing our Saviour in his heavenly kingdom. O let the glorious hour come, when we shall behold that head, which was once pierced

with thorns, adorned with *many crowns.* Let us be continually advancing toward a meetness for this blessed state, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

Thanking God *for Hope.*

O Blessed God, how wonderful is thy condescension, in permitting us to *call upon thy name!* How great is thy mercy, in telling us to *cast our burdens upon thee!* Many of them are such as we have brought upon ourselves through our sinfulness; and we deserve to feel the whole weight of them: yet such is thy compassion, that thou offerest support to us, and sustainest us when we are fainting.

O how *blessed are they who have thee for their help!* Grant that every one of this family may know what that blessedness is. For ere long, O God, we shall all be sensible, that there is nothing truly desirable but *the good of thy chosen.* In a little time all worldly objects will vanish. Wealth, and pleasure, and art, and science, will be no more; and they who live and die regardless of thy gracious counsel will fall with them. But *the godly man thou hast set apart for thyself.* Thou hast *formed thy people for thyself*; and to all eternity, *they shall shew forth thy praise!* O let us have *our portion* with them!

But whence shall we derive encouragement to expect, that this desire will be granted? O Lord, if we have a *good hope,* it is *through grace* that we have it. Hadst not thou given to us a Saviour to make *reconciliation for iniquity,* we should have had no ground of hope. Were not thy Holy Spirit to sanctify the heart, we should be desirous of nothing better than what this world may afford. We obtain no spiritual

comfort by our own power, but by *thine abundant mercy.* We therefore *bless the* GOD *and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath begotten us to a lively hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

We would thank thee, O Lord, for the present supports, as well as the future prospects, which thy word affordeth us. Thou art *God all-sufficient;* and they who *love thy name* may rejoice therein, in the darkest times, and in the greatest difficulties. Let that be our happy case. Enable us to give ourselves to thee; and do thou *fill us with all joy and peace in believing. May we so abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost,* that when outward things appear to be against us, we may *encourage ourselves in the Lord our* GOD. And if a *day of* trying *visitation* come, may we glorify thee in it: Let it be seen, that there is a *light* that reacheth us in this dark world—that we have a *refuge* to flee to, and a *support* to lean upon.

Both in prosperity and adversity, may we show what it is, to *have passed from death unto life*. May we commend thy good ways to men, not by words only, but *by pureness, by knowledge, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left.*

But, O Lord, we cannot call these duties to mind, without recollecting, how often we fail in them. We would acknowledge the offence with godly sorrow; and earnestly intreat thee not to leave us to ourselves, lest we should again fall into the things of which we accuse ourselves. Be continually present with the help of thy grace; that our attention to duty in future, may be increased, by the penitent recollection of past remissness.

With many thanks for the mercies of this day, we commend ourselves, our dear relations, and all our neighbours, to thy protection this night. We pray thee to support the weak, to comfort the distressed,

and to supply the wants of all, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

A Prayer for Children *.

O LORD GOD, thy providence and mercy call for our continual praise. Thou not only *determinest the bounds of our habitation* in this world, but affordest us the means of grace; that when we are called hence, we may enter into *everlasting habitations* of peace and joy.

We bless thee for those promises of guidance and protection, that we need in this perilous world. How should creatures so

* If there be no children belonging to the family, this prayer should be exchanged for some other one in the collection; it being too appropriate for any but those who have the care of young persons.

weak and depraved as we are, escape the dangers to which we are exposed, were we to be left to ourselves! Lord, be thou with us, *to keep us from the evil that is in the world.*

May it please thee to look down in mercy upon all men, and convince them of the great necessity of making this request unto thee. We particularly commend our tender offspring to thy grace. O give unto them that *wisdom, which is profitable to direct* them in this ensnaring and perilous state.

And to those on whom thou hast bestowed children, be graciously pleased to afford both knowledge and grace, for *bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.* May it be our principal concern, to guard our offspring from the evils of that state, into which we have been the means of bringing them. O Lord, we would lead them to Thee; we would intreat our Saviour to take them into his hands; for we can have no hope, either for ourselves, or for them, but in the power and grace of that *good Shepherd.*

Crown, O Lord, our endeavours for their good with thy blessing. Suffer not those, whose welfare we seek, to misunderstand us. Let them not look upon us as *their enemies because we tell them the truth.* Give to our children a teachable disposition, that they may not lose the benefit of instruction, through obstinacy, rashness, or vanity. While we are pointing out to them the path of peace, may thy Holy Spirit open their eyes to see the way, and incline their hearts to walk therein.

And we humbly pray, that *a full reward may be given to us:* let none of them be content to be one among the many who have the *form of godliness without the power;* but may we have cause to rejoice over them, as those *who cleave to the Lord with purpose of heart.*

Let thy presence, most blessed God, accompany them all through life. Though new situations should produce new and greater temptations, yet all will be well, if *Thou art with them.* O guide them in all the steps

which they take in matters relating to this life; and suffer them to enter into no connections which may be injurious to them, either in temporal or spiritual things. *In all their ways* may they *acknowledge thee; and thou wilt direct their paths.*

We do not *ask great things* for them. We only pray, that in that way which seemeth good unto thee, they may have the honour of being useful to others. Should any of them prosper in temporal things, let them rejoice in their success, principally, on account of its putting *more power into their hands to do good.*

And whether they be high or low in the world, let the interests of thy church be ever dear to them; and, may they count it an honour to do any thing, by which those interests may be promoted. O Lord, suffer them not to leave the place which thou hast allotted to them, but in that place and station may they live to thy glory, and seek the good of their fellow-creatures. And if they have it not in their power to do any thing

more toward those ends, than to hand down the knowledge of the gospel to posterity, by instructing their own children; may they see that this is a great and good work, and attend to it with diligence and delight. And be pleased, O Lord, to give success to their endeavours; that they may have the honour of contributing to preserve a *godly seed* in the earth.

We do not ask, that our children may be exempted from all trial; for we know not but it may be good for them to taste the cup of affliction: but we request, that if they are tried, they may be led to that Saviour for relief, who sympathizes with us in all our distresses; and by whose grace, their afflictions *shall bring forth in them the peaceable fruits of righteousness.*

O Lord, whatever be their situation *in* the world, grant that they may walk as *strangers and pilgrims on earth.* Never may they be *ashamed of Christ or of his words, or* of them who faithfully serve him. May love to God, faith in Jesus, and thankful remem-

brance of what he did for men, increase in them every day. As they approach the *end of their course*, may they feel in their hearts an increasing longing to be *with their Saviour, that they may behold his glory.* And when the hour of separation cometh, do thou be with them; that they may make an honourable and comfortable end *.

O let there be a generation to serve thee; and may all of this house be of that number, and walk this day as those who are of thy family. All which we ask in the name of thy dear Son our Lord; who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

* *The following addition, for children who are going from home to be educated, may be introduced here.*

We commend our dear children, who are going to school to-day, to thy gracious care, O Lord. We intreat thee to preserve both their bodies and their minds from evil. And may they be fitted, under the instructors to whose care they are committed, to live a life that shall be useful to others, and comfortable to themselves.

SATURDAY EVENING.

Thanksgiving for Health.

HITHERTO, O thou gracious *preserver of men*, hast thou brought us. We would look back on the past days of this week, with thankfulness for the various mercies received at thy hands; among which, we would now particularly call to mind, the sweet enjoyment of health.

We are not only *wonderfully made*, but wonderfully preserved. Sickness is on either hand; and yet we escape. Death cometh near us; but toucheth us not. O Lord, it is to thy good providence, that we must ascribe our safety amidst these dangers.

Grant, O GOD, that such of this family as have been thus favoured this week, may be duly sensible of what they owe to thee for the blessing. And to those whose health hath been interrupted, and those who feel

themselves liable to sickness, give thy heavenly grace; that what they feel or fear, may have a good effect on their souls.

Teach us, when we feel our infirmities, to receive instruction from them. May we be reminded by them, that *there is an appointed time to man upon earth;* and may the consideration excite us, *to do whatsoever our hand findeth to do, with all our might.* And since *there remaineth a rest for thy people;* O grant that every thing which maketh us feel *how frail we are*, may cause us to turn our eyes to that heavenly Canaan.

We bless thee, that we have heard of that better world, and of that *way* to it which is opened to us, by the mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ. We would give thee thanks also for *lengthening out our days*; for thereby the *accepted time, and the day of salvation* continueth, and opportunities are multiplied of acquiring a meetness for heaven. O that we may make this use of our lengthened life, that the longer we live, the more we may be fit to die!

Pardon, O good Lord, every one in this house, who hath this week suffered time to be totally lost, or uselessly applied. And since their passing hours are making way for *the end of all things*, O give them grace to *redeem the time;* and to be followers of those, who are waiting with joy for the coming of our Lord, with *their loins girt, and their lights burning.*

Praised be thy name, for all the blessings which thy hand hath bestowed. How great is thy mercy! who can recount all that it doth for us! It findeth us a habitation to dwell in; it provideth us a bed to rest on; it spreadeth our table, procureth us clothing, healeth our sickness, bindeth up the heart when broken, supporteth the mind when burdened, and cheareth the spirit when sorrowful—Yea, it pardoneth our sins; it *blotteth out our iniquities;* it snatcheth us as *brands from the fire;* and carrieth us from earth to heaven. O how many, and how great things, have we to praise thee for, most gracious Lord.

We would look forward with thankfulness to the approaching Sabbath. We would reckon it among our greatest mercies, that we have means of grace afforded us, and days of holy rest to attend on them. Preserve us, O Lord, this night, and bring us to see another of these days. May we enter on it with joy, and attend the means of grace with a mind earnestly desirious of obtaining all the benefits, for which they were in mercy ordained. Enable us to *worship thee in the beauty of holiness*, and to *receive with all readiness* whatsoever thy word shall declare unto us.

O what are we, that *the blessed God* should look upon such undeserving creatures! We *are not worthy of the least of thy mercies*; and yet thou holdest out thy choicest blessings to us! Accept, O Lord, the praise which is due to thee for all we have, and all we hope for; through Jesus Christ our Lord; from whose instruction we have learned thus to pray unto thee:

Our Father, &c.

FOURTH WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

A Prayer for the Success of the Gospel.

MOST holy Lord, accept our humble thanksgivings, for the preservation thou didst afford us during the last night, and for granting us the light of another Sabbath.

We would enter upon the day, with a joyful remembrance of that pledge of a blessed immortality, given to us in our Saviour's resurrection. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us to a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

In imitation of the first followers of Christ, we assemble for public worship on that day

of the week on which our Saviour rose. May our meeting together be blessed with that *power of the Holy Ghost*, which gave life to the first christian assemblies. O let those blessed times return, when, *the Spirit being poured out from on high, the wilderness became a fruitful field.* Let thy *word* still *be glorified*, by the conversion of many hearts to God.

Great thanks would we render to thee, O Lord, that we are yet favoured with the means of grace. Much as thy day hath been disregarded, and much as public worship hath been neglected, these things have not yet provoked thee to deprive us of the light of thy gospel. O continue this blessing among us still; and make us more diligent in *taking heed unto it, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place.* Have mercy on them, who value not this great advantage; and make them to know the supports and consolations which it yieldeth unto thy servants. O that some of those poor wanderers, who (*not knowing the things that belong to their peace*) devote this day to forbidden

pleasure, may be brought home to thy fold; and made to rejoice in that holy word of God, which they now despise.

Let this, O Lord, be a day of comfort to the afflicted. Let the oppressed, the desolate, the troubled in mind, flock to thy house, and there find relief. *O let them not return ashamed; let the poor and needy praise thy name.*

Meet and bless all those, who shall wait on thee this day, *hungering and thirsting after righteousness.* And O that we of this family may thus wait upon thee. The more we hear concerning God and heavenly things, the more may we wish to hear.

But let us not be mere hearers: May thy Holy Spirit influence us, not only as a *spirit of wisdom*, but as a *spirit of love;* that we may *give our heart to God;* and that it may be our *meat and drink to do his will.*

May every successive opportunity of waiting on thee in thy house, increase in us all

those holy dispositions, by which thy servants are fitted for the worship of heaven. Make us to grow *rich in faith, and in good works;* but still keep us low in our own eyes: and remembering *who made us to differ* from others, may we be alway saying, *Not unto us, O Lord, but to thy name be the praise.*

Let us from day to day be kept living like the blessed expectants of a better state: waiting with humble and joyful hope for that glorious period, when our Redeemer *shall appear unto* our complete *salvation;*—when the last storm shall blow on the church; when the last dart shall be thrown by the *wicked one;* and *the last enemy shall be destroyed.* Now to God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be glory for ever. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the World.

O THOU, who art *over all, God blessed for ever*, look upon us; and assist us, in offering up the sacrifices of praise and prayer. Help us to adore thee for the mercies of redemption. If thine holy *angels desire to look into these things*, how ought we, for whom this redemption was wrought, to dwell on the subject, and to be continually ascribing glory to the GOD of Salvation.

We would be thankful that it hath been our happy lot to be born in a land, in which the blessed tidings of this grace are published. O enable us rightly to conceive of the wonderful loving-kindness of Him, who took our nature, *and dwelt among us.* Enlarge our minds, O Lord, that *we may be* better *able to comprehend the breadth, and length, and*

depth, and heighth, of the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.

Teach every one of us the greatness of our obligations to that blessed Saviour, who came to *redeem us by his blood.* Make every one of this family to know what he is in himself; that he may learn how to value the great love of him, who *gave his life a ransom for* sinners.

And grant, O Lord, that none of those who hear of his name may, like the unbelieving Jews, reject him. Let it not be said that *he came* to us, and *we received him not.* May we receive him as a *Saviour*, by believing on him;—as a *Guide*, by following him;—as a *Friend*, by loving him;—and as a *Master*, by serving him.

Let it not content us, O Lord, to call ourselves by the name of Christ; but may we remember, that he came into the world, not merely to give us a new name, but to make us *new creatures.* Enable us then to *put off*

the old man, which is corrupt; and to *put on the new man, which, after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

Be graciously pleased to open the eyes of those who call themselves Christians, and yet consider not the end for which *Christ came into the world.* Grant that they may see what true christianity is; and may they partake of that grace by which thy genuine disciples are preserved from sinful pleasures, and are enabled to live *a sober, righteous and godly life in this present world.*

O Lord, let thy kingdom spread on the earth. Scatter the darkness which preventeth men from seeing its glory; weaken the powers which oppose its progress; and succeed the lawful endeavours of all those who labour for its extension.

Bless in particular all who are called to preach the *glorious Gospel of the blessed God.* May they deliver thy word with clearness, and force; and may thy Holy Spirit so ac-

company their ministry, that it may bring many to know thee *the only true God*, and to live in the faith and love of the Redeemer, to the end of their days.

And may the *word of thy grace*, which we hear from time to time, make us more *fruitful in every good work;* through Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate: in whose name and words we further call upon thee, saying,

Our Father; &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

That we may set GOD *always before us.*

ALL thy works praise thee, O Lord. They show forth thy wisdom, power, and goodness. O grant that we may behold them with a devout mind.

Let the works of creation call forth reverence to thee, *the Lord our Maker, who stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth.*

Let thy "never-failing providence, which ordereth all things in heaven and earth," teach us to praise thee for what we have received, and to trust thee for what we want.

But above all, open our eyes to behold the glories of thy grace. Let our hearts be filled with wonder, love, and praise, for thine "inestimable love in the redemption of the world, by our Lord Jesus Christ."

And now, O Lord, since thou hast been pleased to show unto us these wonders of power and grace, enable us to walk *worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called.* We dwell in an ensnaring world, and our nature is frail: O look upon our dangers and our weakness; and guard us this day from *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life.*

And while we make this prayer to thee, may we carefully avoid whatever may lead us into temptation. *May we walk circumspectly; not as fools, but as wise.* If *sinners therefore entice us,* suffer us *not to consent* to them. Or if *the deceitfulness of sin* be working in the heart of any one of us, *break the snare,* and give deliverance to the endangered soul.

And lest temptation should follow us even into the path of duty, enable us to *put on the whole armour of God; that we may be able to stand* in the hour of danger. Strengthen us with the aids of thy Holy Spirit, for every conflict; that although fiercely assaulted, we may *endure*; and though wounded, we may still continue the *good fight of faith,* and at length receive from thy gracious hands *the crown of life.*

O Lord, enable us to go forward in thy paths, and all will be well: for there are *more with thy* people, than there are *against them;* and *greater is he that is in them, than*

he that is in the world. But make us, nevertheless, to *watch and pray* against every thing which may tempt us to *depart from the living God.*

Let us not be so *foolish as to trust in our own hearts,* or rely on our own strength. We would come to thee continually, for fresh supplies of grace, that *our strength may be equal to our day.*

These inestimable blessings we entreat thee to pour down, not only upon us, but upon others likewise. And herein we particularly pray for our dear kindred. Thy word teacheth us to seek their welfare like those who know *what is good for man:* we therefore pray, that they may all *know the truth, and that the truth may make them free.* Yea thus, O Lord, would we pray for all mankind; O that the *Kingdoms of this World may become the Kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ* *.

* *To be added if any one of the Family is going a Journey.*

We commend to thy care, O Lord, thy servant, who is entering upon a journey. Be thou *his* director and de-

We humbly request thee, O Lord, to preserve us this day from every evil, temporal and spiritual, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

Thanksgiving for our national Advantages, and Prayer, that they may be continued, and duly improved.

THOU, O Lord, art *over all blessed for ever. Thine is the greatness, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty.* Although thine authority is but little regarded among men, yet art thou daily showing forth thy goodness: For it is thou that givest *rain*

fender. Be graciously pleased to keep *him*, not only from bodily evils, but from *falling into temptation.* May *he* return in peace to this house, and may we all join again in praising thee for thy mercies to each other.

and fruitful seasons; and dividest to the nations the peculiar blessings which they enjoy.

Glory be to thy name for the favours which thou hast showered down upon our land. We bless thee for a fruitful soil, a healthy climate, a mild government, and for all the temporal blessings, with which thou hast distinguished this favoured kingdom.

But most of all we bless thee, for causing the light of thy *glorious gospel* to reach us, whose forefathers were some of the most ignorant of the heathen nations. *Through the tender mercy of our God, the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them who sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet in the way of peace.*

We pray thee to give us a thankful sense of all our mercies; among which we count it one of the greatest, that we live under a free government. How seldom, O Lord, have thy servants had the peaceable pos-

session of this privilege! How generally has it been their lot, to prosecute their everlasting concerns under the frowns of the world, and often at the hazard of their life! But we *sit under our own vine and fig-tree, none making us afraid.* May we be duly sensible of the worth of this blessing; and be daily praising thy name, that we can enjoy, in such a world as this, the unmolested privilege of serving God according to the dictates of our conscience.

O Lord, holy and true, we must own with shame, that, as a people, we have not made that improvement of our national privileges which we ought. But thy word encourageth even those who deserve judgment, to cry for mercy. Hear us then, O thou who art ever ready to receive the petitions of those, who pray to thee in the name of thy dear Son. We intreat thee, by his obedience, his agonies on the cross, and all the merits of his mediation, to be still *favourable to our land.*

Bless us still with the comforts of order, and regular government. May the duties

of magistracy be faithfully discharged, and the powers under which thou hast placed us be *reverenced by the good, and dreaded by evil men.*

Suffer not evil-designing men to mislead the minds of the simple. Guard us against those *whose word eateth like a canker.* And that our minds may not be corrupted by them, let thy word, O Lord, be our constant study, and our rule in every thing. Give us grace faithfully to follow the directions of those Holy Scriptures, which enjoin us to *study to be quiet, and do our own business;* that we may *be as the sons of God, harmless, and without rebuke, in the midst of the crooked and perverse.*

We pray thee, to give us grace deeply to repent of all our negligence, in not improving our national advantages to the best purposes: And enable us to make a better use of them for the time to come. Blessed be thy name, that they are yet continued to us: O, that we may not provoke thee to take them away!

Pour out the grace of thy Holy Spirit, O Lord, upon all orders of men, that the *fear of thy name* may be found among high and low, rich and poor. Grant that this holy principle may increase among us; that the peace of our land may stand on firmer ground; for thy word teacheth us to consider true religion, as the greatest security of a people.

Blessed be thy name, that amidst an awful degeneracy of manners, there are some who not only call themselves Christians, but who are such *in deed and in truth.* Lord, increase their number!

To thy providential care we now commend ourselves. Be our protector from every evil to which we are exposed. These mercies we ask in the name of that adorable Mediator, *by whom we have access* to thee, though in ourselves unworthy to approach thy throne.

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

A Prayer for the Government of the Thoughts.

O MOST gracious Lord, thou hast mercifully heard and answered the requests which we made to thee last night. We have been blesssed with protection, with peace, and with rest. We appear before thee again, to commit ourselves anew to thy care; that we may be preserved from the dangers to which we are liable.

Among these dangers, let us account the commission of sin, the evil most to be feared; and remember, that not only evil deeds, but evil thoughts likewise, are offensive to thee.

O Lord, how often have we been defiled with such thoughts! We feel on this account, as well as on many others, how much we need the intercession of that blessed Advocate, who standeth at thy right hand. O forgive us, for his sake.

And that we may not again offend thee in this way, be graciously pleased to vouchsafe unto us the grace of thy Holy Spirit. May that divine influence be continually present with us: ever suggesting to our minds that which is good; enkindling in us spiritual affections; and nourishing in us such a taste for that which is holy and heavenly, as shall render every wicked thought painful to us.

Sanctify our imagination, that it may not be a snare, but a help to us, in our passage through life. Let not the great enemy of souls be suffered to carry on his designs by means of this faculty; but let thy blessed Spirit so regulate it, that we may be neither deceived, nor defiled, nor distressed through it.

And give us grace, O Lord, to be daily endeavouring to store our minds with good thoughts. Thanks be to thy name, for that rich treasury, the Holy Scriptures, from which our minds may be supplied with the most sublime, the most improving, and the most consolatory meditations. Author of

every good and perfect gift, open our understanding that we may understand the scriptures; and may their directions, comforts, and prospects, take full possession of our souls.

Let our minds be deeply impressed with a sense of what our Saviour hath done for us. Bless us with an habitual recollection of his compassion, his grace, his power, his sorrows, his death, his heavenly words, and benevolent actions; that vain and wicked thoughts may be excluded, by the devout remembrance of what he has done and suffered for our redemption.

And may we not only use the proper means of filling our minds with that which is good, but carefully avoid all those things which tend to suggest wicked imaginations. Subdue in us, O Lord, all vain and hurtful curiosity. Suffer us never to venture on any forbidden ground; nor to allow ourselves in any enployments, or recreations, by which *Satan may get an advantage of us.* Help us, O gracious

God, to act with this wise and holy caution throughout this day.

We beseech thee, to give unto us all, a deep sense of the value of thy favour, and of the insignificance of every thing that can be put in competition with it. Let it not be our principal concern to appear fair in the eyes of our fellow creatures; but to be approved of thee.

Let us, O Lord, be more under the influence of that grace which keepeth us devoutly mindful of thine all-seeing eye; that *out of the abundance of a heart* sanctified by thy Spirit, *our mouths may speak* to thy praise, and all our powers be employed to thy glory. These blessings we humbly intreat thee to bestow upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to look up to thee in hope, and address thee in these words,

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

For Grace to improve by Afflictions.

MOST merciful God, who art pleased to be *nigh unto all who call upon thee*, and art ready to *fulfil the desire of those who fear thee*; enable us to make thee our trust; that in the time of trouble we may be able to take shelter *under the shadow of thy wings.* O that we may be wise enough to remember thee in the day of prosperity; so wilt thou *know our souls in adversity.* Thou art the source of all true comfort: *when thou givest quietness, who can make trouble*; but *when thou hidest thy face*, who then can endure the day of trial!

Suffer us not foolishly to expect, that we shall pass our days, without tasting of the *cup of affliction.* But when troubles come upon us, O heavenly Father, *remember that we are but dust*, or *as a leaf driven to and fro*; and *give us help in time of need.*

Enable us patiently to resign ourselves to thee, *who dost not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men.* Let us wait with meek submission for the time of deliverance. If the trial be continued long, suffer not *our eyes to fail with looking upward.* O give us *strength equal to our day,* that *patience may have its perfect work.*

When we are in affliction, let not the desire of relief be our only concern; but may we endeavour to *profit* by our trials. When we are *bound in fetters, and are held in cords of affliction, then show us our work, and our transgressions, wherein we have exceeded;*— then do thou *open our ears to discipline,* and give us grace to *humble ourselves under thy mighty hand.*

Let the rod of affliction be made to help us in that great and difficult work of withdrawing the heart from the world. When it is found that the idol cannot *save us in the time of trouble,* may we see the vanity of trusting in it; and remember the lesson which we are taught, to the end of life. Let us pass

the rest of our time with an eye stedfastly directed to Thee, the proper object of our trust: accounting it a mercy, to be made to feel that *this* world *is not our rest;* and improving the disappointment of our earthly hopes, by seeking that *rest which remaineth for thy people* *.

And grant, O Lord, not only that this may be our predominant desire, but that every thing which befalleth us, may contribute to our meetness for it. Let our faith, and our hope, and every christian temper, be improved by our passing through the furnace of affliction.

* *In troublesome times, the following addition may be introduced here.*

And grant, O Lord, that the judgment with which our land is now visited, may have its proper effect upon us. We humbly pray thee to remove, in thine own time, the punishment with which we are now deservedly afflicted. May it be so sanctified, as to bring us to a due sense of our sins; and be made the instrument of general reformation. And may all those *who fear thy name*, be enabled to rely on thy power and goodness; and to honour religion by *possessing their souls in patience* during the present trial.

Be graciously pleased to *succour the tempted*, and impart to them that *gace which is sufficient for them*; that though weak in themselves, they may be so strengthened by thy power, as to hold forth an example of patience, hope, and peace, for the instruction of others. O let it be seen by the behaviour of suffering Christians, that their God is a *present help in time of trouble*; and that, though they may be smitten with the rod of affliction, their condition is truly blessed *.

* *The following addition for a sick person in the family may be introduced here.*

We intreat thee, O Lord, to look down in mercy on that member of the family, to whom thou hast appointed the cup of trial. Be graciously pleased to sanctify this visitation of thy providence to *him*, by causing it to work for *his* good. Vouchsafe to *him* relief in thine own good time; and till that blessing be granted, may thy will be submitted to with meek resignation. Preserve *him* from hard thoughts of God while *he* is under affliction, and may *he* be brought out of it, with a deep sense of thy mercy; may *he* obtain grace to profit both by the trial, and by *his* deliverance from it.

But if it seem not good unto thee to raise him up again, O prepare *him* by thy grace, for *his* departure hence. We humbly intreat thee to give *him repentance unto life*, and a true faith in Jesus Christ. Sanctify *him* by thy Holy Spirit,

We commend all the children of affliction to Thee this night. And we bless thy holy name for all those, whom thou hast this day preserved from tasting of their cup. Be, O Lord, our defender this night from all evil, and be graciously pleased to restore us to the light of a new day. To thy holy name be ascribed everlasting praises. Amen and Amen.

Our Father, &c.

that *he* may become daily more meet for, and desirous of thy heavenly kingdom.

For a sick child, let the following addition be introduced, instead of the foregoing.

O thou who art pleased to look down with gracious regard upon all thy frail creatures, have compassion upon that sick child, whose afflicted case we desire to spread before thee. We humbly beseech thee, to release *him* from *his* sufferings. Enable us to wait with patience for thy merciful appearance in his favour, and submissively to acquiesce in the way, in which it shall please thee to put an end to *his* affliction.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Thanking God *for the Gift of a Saviour.*

O MOST blessed God, thou art the source of all good: without thee, *man is vanity in his best estate.* Without thee, our light is darkness; our wisdom, folly; our wealth, poverty; our happiness, but disguised misery.

O Lord, from thy bountiful hand cometh all our blessings. To thee are we indebted for the food we eat, the health we enjoy, the friends who love us, the benefactors who help us, and the instructors by whom we are edified. Great is the number of our mercies; but there is one which exceedeth all the rest: The inestimable gift of a Redeemer, *able to save to the uttermost*, and who *casteth out none that come to him.*

We pray thee to fill our hearts with thankfulness for this *unspeakable gift.* And that

we may rightly value this gift, grant unto every one of us a due sense of our own poverty.

And since it is *out of the fulness of Christ that we receive grace for grace*, may we look to him with a contrite, and yet a believing heart; that we may pass from condemnation to peace; from fear to hope; and from the bondage of sin, to that holy *liberty wherewith he maketh his people free.*

O may we be *living branches in* that *true vine, separate from whom we can do nothing.* And may this vital union be evidenced by all its genuine fruits; that we may pass our days rejoicing in that Saviour, who is the *rock*, on which the church is built; the *manna*, by which it is fed; the *light*, by which it is cheared; and the great subject of its everlasting songs.

Enable us to walk this day as the *redeemed of the Lord. The time past of our life*, O Lord, may indeed *suffice to have wrought the will of the Gentiles*; let us henceforth *have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of dark-*

ness. Let the *love of Christ constrain us.* Let us *live to Him, who died for us.*

And may the remembrance of our Redeemer's name refresh us under the labours of this life. May the recollection of what he endured for us, reconcile us to the crosses, and guard us amidst the snares to which we are exposed. O may the sharpest sufferings be less horrible to our minds, than the thought of *crucifying the Son of God afresh,* by wilfully commiting those sins for which he bled on the cross.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon those nations which are yet in darkness. Let the *glory of the Lord be revealed, and all flesh see it together*; that the *name of Jesus may be known, and loved,* and *rejoiced in,* wherever there is a human creature to hear the *glad tidings* of his grace.

And wherever thou sendest thy word, let it be accompanied with that power which thou hast over the heart of every man, to cause the *truth to be received* with thankful-

ness. Let not the ministers of thy word have to complain, that their *report is not believed.* Let not the *God of this world blind the eyes of men,* when that blessed light of the gospel shineth around them, which showeth them the *things that belong to their peace.*

The Lord bless and preserve us, and ours, and all, for whom we ought to pray; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only mediator, and advocate: in whose words, we further call upon thee, saying,

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

For the Wisdom nnd Piety required in the Government of a Family.

O THOU who didst promise to be the *God of the families of Israel,* let thy blessing rest upon this house; that it may be the habitation of piety, of order, and of peace.

Enable us, O Lord, to seek for this blessing in the faithful discharge of the duties of our station. Make thy servant, whom thou hast set over this house, a wise and godly ruler of it. Enable him with wisdom, and in the spirit of kindness, to keep out of his family every thing by which the minds of his household may be polluted. Teach him to watch over his abode, like a faithful shepherd of the flock committed to him; guarding it against the admission, not only of gross enormities, but of idle and frivolous habits likewise.

O God, let this house be a place of instruction; let it be a nursery of piety, in which those who go from us, may learn to fill the stations allotted to them, with a conscientious regard to the duties incumbent on them.

And that success may attend our humble endeavours, let every one of this house partake of that influence of thy Holy Spirit, which leadeth us to what is right, by first humbling us for what is wrong. May our

hearts be properly affected by thy patience and mercy to us, who *in* so *many things offend;* that we may exercise that mutual forbearance, without which there can be no sound family peace. O let that power of our Saviour's grace be known among us, by which sinful men are reconciled to God, and to one another. *Make us all to be of one mind in this house,* and let that be the mind of an enlightened, humble, and heavenly-tempered creature, taught of God to *follow holiness and peace.*

O God of mercy, pity all those who are *as sheep having no shepherd.* Have compassion on the children and servants of those *families that call not on thy name.* Save them from the evils to which uninstructed souls are exposed, and into which we see many of them fall.

During the assizes, or at any other season for trying public offenders, the following addition may be introduced here.

And may our hearts be touched with christian compassion, at seeing so many brought to infamy, and to an untimely end. We humbly commend to thy mercy, O Lord, all those

And by the vices and miseries, which so frequently follow the want of religious instruction in early life, teach us of this house, to set a due value on it. Let not the younger branches of the family be impatient to *burst the bonds, and break the yoke* of godly discipline; but be thankful to thee that care is taken of their minds; and pray, that they may give a good account of the advantages put into their hands. O lead us all, day by day, in thine own paths; that our way may be peace, and our end may be peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord: for whose sake, we

whose sins have brought them to public punishment. O that the poor wretched exile may learn instruction in that distant land, to which he is banished! May his sufferings *bring him to himself*, that he may bless the God of salvation: and though driven from his native country, may he be received at last into thy kingdom.

But especially look on those, who are condemned to die for their offences. O thou who didst pour the grace of repentance into the heart of the dying thief, vouchsafe the like mercy to those, who are appointed unto death; that they may be as *brands plucked out of the fire*. And may their untimely end be regarded as a warning of the consequences of sin.

pray thee, to accept our thanks for thy care over us this day, and to bless us with the same during the ensuing night.

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

A Prayer for the Influence of God's Holy Spirit.

ETERNAL and ever-blessed God, by whom all things were made, and by whom they are upheld, mercifully look down from the throne of thy glory, upon the unworthy creatures, who are now bowing at thy foot-stool.

O Lord, there is nothing that can yield real satisfaction to our hearts, but a knowledge of thyself as our God and our friend. We are *seeking the living among the dead*, till we look for our happiness in thee. Put

therefore a desire into our souls to know thee, and to be as much united to thee, as such frail creatures can be to the ever-blessed Creator.

But, O great God, how shall we attain to such honour and happiness? Art thou not of *purer eyes than to behold iniquity?* Do we not know that we are defiled by sin? How then could we hope to enjoy any communion with Thee, were it not for the promised grace of thy Holy Spirit, to cleanse and purify our hearts. O grant us this blessing, for the sake of him who *bore the cross*, and is now *sitting* down *at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

We call to mind the glorious day of Pentecost; that day when *mercy rejoiced against judgment*, by *turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just.* O let that power which *pricked the hearts of our* Lord's persecutors, again attend the ministry of the gospel! Still may thy word be accompanied by the influence of thy Holy Spirit; that it may be *quick and pow-*

ful, and both humble and gladden the hearts of those who hear it.

O thou who art able to make the *wolf dwell with the lamb, and the leopard to lie down with the kid*, and who didst on the day of pentecost, gloriously show forth this transforming power of thy grace; endue us with that spirit of *brotherly kindness*, by which the first disciples were distinguished. Enable us who call ourselves Christians, to *put on, as the elect of God, bowels of mercies, kindness, and long-suffering*; that all men may know whose disciples we are, by the *love* that we bear *one toward another*.

May thy Holy Spirit abide with thy church continually: preserving the zeal and purity of its ministers; preventing the dissemination of false doctrine; and causing the belief of the truth to be adorned, by the practice of all Christian virtues. O look on those parts of it in which there has been any deviation from the truth, or decay of piety; and grant, that a revival of primitive faith and godliness may be seen there.

Bless us all with the same grace; that our *light may shine* brighter, and our hearts be more and more filled with that *peace of God, which passeth all understanding.*

Be mercifully pleased, O Lord, to be with all of us this day, in our several places; keeping us from evils and dangers of every kind. And such as may be permitted to befal us, do thou overrule for our benefit in the end. Let us be concerned to live *as obedient children*, and thou wilt make *all things work together for our good.* In this holy care, and in this blessed confidence, we pray thee to keep us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

A Prayer for all States.

O GOD of mercy, who teachest us to *make prayers and supplications* for others, as well as for ourselves; vouchsafe to hear our requests for all states and conditions of men.

We thank thee, most merciful God, for the benefits and comforts of civil government. We pray, that thy blessing may rest on this thine appointment, and on all persons, who are employed therein. Be thou the counsellor and supporter of all Christian Kings, and of all persons to whom the powers of government are committed; that they may neither *neglect* the important duties of their office, nor *sink* under its weighty cares.

Let thy choicest blessings descend on thy servant our King. May he be the father of his people; and may "we, and all his subjects, duly regard that authority" which thou

hast given to him. Bless him with wisdom in the choice of his ministers; that all places of trust may be filled by able and conscientious men. Defend him, O Lord, from the designs of evil men; and let there *be abundance of peace in his days.*

We praise thee, for having been pleased to favour this land with a christian ministry. Grant, O Lord, that all those, who have this office entrusted to them, may know, and love the *truth as it is in Jesus.* Bless them with wisdom, patience, zeal, humility, and love to mankind; that they may be *burning and shining lights* in the world; *holding forth thy word* by their lives, as well as by their discourses. And may the *seed* which they sow, produce much *fruit* to the glory of thy name.

O that all the churches which have gone aside from the path of truth, may see, and forsake their errors. May that Holy Spirit, through whose gifts the first christian societies were so distinguished, be again richly *poured from on high*; that the *pure and un-*

defiled religion of our God and Saviour may flourish in the earth.

We bless thee for all those, whom thou hast enabled to *keep the faith.* Strengthen these thy servants, O God, to persevere in the *good way*, into which thou hast brought them. *Cause them always to triumph in Christ.* May thy Holy Spirit increase in them all heavenly tempers; that they may be happy and honourable *witnesses of the truth* wherever they dwell.

Have mercy, O God of patience and power, on all those, who have not yet returned unto thee. *The hearts of all are in thy hand.* There are none so hardened, but thou canst soften them; none so blind, but thou canst enlighten them: even the very dead, thou canst quicken. O repeat in thy great mercy those miracles of grace which thou hast heretofore performed; and bring home *to thy fold* those who are now *as sheep going astray.*

Make us thankful for our preservation from the trials to which human life is subject; but

let not our enjoyments make us forgetful of the sufferings of others. Give us the tender spirit of our Lord. *In all our affliction he was afflicted:* So would we now *remember them that are in adversity;* and do thou be pleased to hear our prayers for them.

Look, O Lord, in pity on all the nations which are visited with the dreadful calamities of war, or pestilence, or famine. Look in mercy likewise, on all suffering individuals. Be thou the widow's protector; the orphan's parent; the prisoner's companion; the sick man's physician; the afflicted man's comforter; the poor man's friend. And may the troubles of the distressed wean them from this world, (to which we all cleave too much) and cause them to listen to the voice of that gracious Saviour, who inviteth the *weary and heavy-laden to come unto him.*

We bless thee for every attempt that hath been made this day to do good to men, either in their temporal or spiritual concerns. Be mercifully pleased to preserve the lives of those valuable persons, who are devoted to

such services; and succeed their humane and pious endeavours.

Finally, O Lord, we commend into thy hands all for whom we ought to pray. We intreat thee to bless this family. We have much to ask for ourselves, as well as for others; but known unto thee are all our necessities. We humbly intreat thee to supply them as thou seest fit; and prepare us daily, by thy grace, for that better state in which none of the sins or miseries of this world will have any place. O may we be daily *longing for thy salvation*, and yet patiently *waiting for it*, through Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate *.

Our Father, &c.

* *The following Thanksgiving for the safe return of children from school, may be intoduced here.*

Among the mercies of this day, O Lord, we reckon the safe return of our dear children. Blessed be thy name, for thy goodness to them, during the time of their separation from us. We thank thee also for thy preservation of them on their journey hither. May thy blessing rest upon them, and cause them, whether abroad or at home, to *increase in wisdom, and in stature, and in favour with God, and* good *men*.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Praise for the Blessings of Providence and Redemption.

FATHER of mercies, and God of all comfort, we thank thee for having made thyself known by the most gracious names: they encourage helpless and guilty creatures to pray, to hope, and to rejoice.

Nor is it in thy word alone, that we find these encouragements; but likewise in the world which we inhabit: Though it aboundeth with offences against thee, yet it affordeth numerous means of comfort and enjoyment.

We thank thee, O Lord, for every thing which thou hast mercifully provided to remove pain, to rescue us from immediate death, to give length to our days, and comfort to ourselves, and those to whom we are

dear. Blessed be God for all those medicinal virtues, which thou hast taught man to discover and apply, for the relief of those who suffer pain or sickness.

But how shall we find words to express the mercy, which thou hast manifested in the redemption of mankind! By our sins, we have not only brought pain and distress upon ourselves; but have exposed ourselves to thy righteous anger, and to a sentence of everlasting banishment from thy presence; But *rich in mercy*, as well as *infinite in wisdom*, thou hast furnished the means of our being saved from this dreadful consequence of disobedience.

And, O great God! how astonishing are these means! Could it ever have entered into the heart of man to conceive, that thou shouldest *so love the world, as to give thine only begotten Son* for its salvation! O grant that this mercy of thine, so unspeakably great, may have its due effect on our hearts and lives.

Let the recollection of it ever abide with us: rejoicing our hearts; sweetening our labours; allaying our fears; regulating our lives; reconciling us to sufferings; and securing us against snares. Let it employ our thoughts, and influence us in all our conduct towards our fellow-creatures; inclining us to charity, to peace, to gentleness, to patience, and to forbearance.

Let none of the enjoyments of this life so sensualize our hearts, as to make us forget Him who died for us. While we are partaking of the bounties of Providence, may we call to mind the bloody sweat, the crown of thorns, and the cross of a suffering Saviour. And may we lift up a thankful heart to him, through whom the curse to which we were exposed, is removed; and the blessings which we forfeited, are restored.

Enable us, O Lord, to walk this day as the disciples of Jesus. Let us pursue the duties of our calling, in a sweet and peaceful reliance on the care which thou art pleased

to take of thy servants. Thou art able to save us from the *greatest* evils; and thou art willing to extend thy providential regard to the *least* things, in which our happiness is concerned. Enable us then, to honour thee as our Sovereign Lord, and to trust in thee as our Protector, through Jesus Christ; on whose intercession we build all our hopes of acceptance with thee.

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

Thanksgiving for the Removal of Afflictions.

BLESSED be God who *casteth not away our prayer, nor turneth his mercy from us.* Although it seemeth good unto thee, O Lord, sometimes to *cause grief, yet hast thou compassion* on us, *according to the multitude of thy mercies.* And when thou *visitest with the rod*, thy hand is not so severe as it would be, were

thou to *deal with us according to our sins.* If we are *in heaviness, it is but for a season.* Our chastisements do not endure so long, nor return so frequently, as our offences.

O most gracious God, who *pardonest iniquity, and passest by transgression,* let us *sing aloud of thy mercy*; for thou *hast been our defence, and our refuge* in the day of our trouble *.

There is not one of us, but hath great reason to make thy mercy his song. O give a thankful heart to those, who have been preserved from trouble. Bestow the same grace on those, who have been delivered out of it. Some of us have *cried unto thee out of depths* of affliction; but from thence the voice of prayer reached thy gracious ear. *Thou didst*

* *The following Tanksgiving for deliverance from any impending danger, such as a conflagration, a flood, a violent tempest, &c. may be introduced here.*

We have great reason to speak thus, O Lord, for thy merciful appearance in our favour this day. Danger was at hand, but God was near; and through his help we have been preserved. O that our lives as well as our lips may show forth thy praise!

*send from above, thou didst stretch out thine hand, and draw us out of many waters.**.

Now, Lord, grant that we may not forget *the vows which our lips uttered, when we were*

* *The following Thanksgiving for the safe delivery of a woman in travail, may be introduced here.*

We have new mercies, O Lord, to acknowledge. We bless thy name for the great goodness which thou hast shown to thy servant in the time of trouble. We look to thee, O Lord, to guard her from every future danger. O that if it please thee, she may be raised up again. And may she look back with thankfulness on this day, in which thou hast wrought deliverance for her. Let this, and every other mercy, shown to her, lead her to live more to thy glory; that she may become more meet for thy heavenly kingdom.

If the child be alive, the following words may be added.

And O let that child whom thou hast given to us, be a comfort to us, and a blessing to *his* fellow-creatures. Teach us to bring *him* up in *the fear of thy holy name;* and prosper all our endeavours in this kind; that if we live to see *him* arrive at years of maturity, we may have the joy of seeing *him* walk in thy ways, and not the sorrow of seeing *him* follow that *multitude*, who are habitually *doing evil.* We commend *him* to thee, O God of salvation, that *he* may not only be preserved from the evils of this world into which *he* is born; but that *he* may live a useful life in it, and leave it in hope and peace, whenever the time of *his* departure hence shall come.

in trouble. Let every one whose prayer thou hast heard and answered, remember the claim which thou hast upon him, and say, *O Lord, truly I am thy servant, for thou hast loosed my bonds.*

And O that we may not forget the lessons which we learned in the school of affliction! Let the man whom thou hast snatched from the borders of the grave, remember, how the world appeared to him when he stood there, and what he then thought of religion. O God, let the wisdom which we learn at such times, abide with us. Let us be still listening to him who instructed us; that we may not *turn again to folly.*

O Lord, when we learn that thou teachest us, we see things as they really are; and we are convinced, that there is no wealth like the being *rich toward God*;—that there is no honour like *that which cometh from thee*;—that there is no friend like *Christ*; nor any evil so much to be dreaded as *sin.* Grant that every one, to whom thou hast shown these things, may make it manifest, by his

daily conversation, that these important discoveries have had a sanctifying effect upon his heart.

Let us now make it our *first* business to *seek the kingdom of God.* Incline our hearts to *pray without ceasing* for that grace, which will enable us to believe, and hope, and obey, unto the end; that this world, instead of being the place of our ruin, may be to us only the *house of our pilgrimage*, and a school in which we may become prepared for thine house above *.

Teach us, O Lord, so to live in the world, as to be daily providing for that hour, in which we must leave it. For we would not forget, that however thou mayest from time

* *The following Tranksgiving for one of the family recovered from a dangerous illness, may be introduced here.*

Let none of thy mercies, O gracious God, be forgotten. We bless thee for hearing and answering our prayers for the recovery of *him*, whose disorder thou hast removed. We intreat thee to establish, and preserve *his* health. And may a thankful heart be given both to *him*, for whom we besought thee, and to us, who called upon thee in the day of trouble.

time relieve us from sickness, or deliver us out of trouble, the hour will come when we must *pass through the valley of the shadow of death.* Suffer us not therefore, O our God, to be unmindful that *our change must come.* Let us be habitually waiting and preparing for it: wisely considering, that we are spared, not to repeat our sins, but to repent of them;—not to *live after the flesh,* but to *grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ* *.

Merciful and gracious Lord, be pleased to preserve us, and all for whom we ought to pray, this night from every evil, temporal or spiritual. Hear our humble requests, O Lord, and answer them, not according to our de-

* *The following Thanksgiving for the safe return of a person after a journey or a voyage, may be introduced here.*

We bless thee, O Lord, for all the mercies of this day, and particularly for the return of thy servant, who through thy good providence arrived among us this day in safety. We thank thee for all the blessings *he* received from thee on *his* journey; and we pray thee to fill *his* heart and ours with thankfulness to thee, for causing us to meet again in peace.

serts, but according to thy great mercy in Christ Jesus our Saviour.

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

A Prayer for the Government of the Tongue.

ALMIGHTY and gracious Creator, who hast endued us with faculties and powers, by which we are placed above the brutes which perish, give us grace to employ them all as *instruments of righteousness.*

We praise thee for the excellent gift of speech, and we pray that those lips which thou hast opened, may be ever *showing forth thy praise.*

We must confess, O Lord, that we have made a sinful use of this faculty. And O how great is the sum of our offences in this

kind! Who can count the number of our foolish, our unholy, or our uncharitable words? Yet numberless as they are to us, they are all known unto thee. And what can we do, who are not able to recal them, but cast ourselves on thy mercy; and pray, that for Christ's sake, thou wouldest take away the *transgression of our lips?*

O may we so bear in mind the mischiefs done by an unbridled tongue,—the miseries which it occasioneth in the world,—and the disgrace it bringeth upon a christian profession, as to be always afraid of *offending in word.* But lest sudden provocation should hurry us into a forgetfulness of these considerations, do thou, O Lord, *set a watch before our mouths, and keep the door of our lips.*

And as it is *out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaketh,* may our hearts be sanctified by thy Holy Spirit. We pray for *patience,* that we may never break forth into fretful and repining language when we suffer. We pray for *meekness* of Spirit; that

injuries and provocations may not betray us into angry and bitter speeches. May we continually feel a *contrite sense of our own sins*; that we may refrain from all uncharitable censuring of others. And be thou graciously pleased to increase in us that *seriousness* of mind which becometh our condition; that our conversation may not be debased with foolish and unchristian levities.

May we have wisdom to discern when we ought to be silent; and do thou enable us to *bridle the tongue*, whenever the restraint is necessary.

Give us grace to make the example of Jesus our pattern. He hath taught us by his life, how to use our faculties. O may we not only obtain the pardon of sin through his blood, but by his *strength perfected in our weakness*, attain likewise to some blessed degree of resemblance of him.

Be with us all through this day, most gracious God, that however we may be dealt with by others, we may provoke no one,

grieve no one, deceive no one. May *the conversation which proceedeth out of our mouth, be that which is good, and which tendeth to the edification of those who hear.*

We praise and bless thee, O Lord, for all the comforts of the past night. We begin the day with thanksgiving to thee for all thy mercies. And now, O Lord, *let not blessing and cursing proceed out of the same mouth.* May all our conversation this day agree with what we are now doing; that "we may show "forth thy praise, not only with our lips, "but in our lives."

We intreat thee, most merciful Father, to guard society from all the evils to which it is exposed by *unruly and vain talkers.* Confound the designs and endeavours of all those, who are seeking to spread principles of impiety, rebellion, or discord. Be graciously pleased to preserve every community from such men; and give success to that blessed gospel, which through thy mercy, is yet published in the world. O may it be faithfully dispensed, and may it be blessed to the

conversion of those who hear it; that love to God and man may dwell in our hearts, be heard in our words, and seen in our actions, through Jesus Christ our Lord; in whose name and words we conclude our humble requests:

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

Review of Life.

O THOU who *without respect of persons judgest according to every man's work*, have mercy upon us; and blot out of the *book of thy remembrance*, the manifold transgressions of our lives. It becometh us, O Lord, to take a review of the course in which we have walked;—but oh what a review is it! How many *sins committed*, and *talents unimproved*, and *duties left undone*, doth it discover!

We stand before thee inexcusable;—self-condemned;—but (blessed be thy name!) not *without hope: for there is mercy with thee.* Thou hast provided a *sacrifice for sins.* Thou hast revealed a SAVIOUR who made *reconciliation for iniquity.* To him we would *flee for refuge*, humbly beseeching him, to *order our cause* before the throne of the Most High; that mercy may proceed from thence, instead of judgment, and that our souls may sing of *abounding grace.*

And ever, ever may the remembrance of our sins, and of thy mercy abide with us. Recollecting that thou hast spared those whom thou couldest have destroyed, let the remainder of our lives be considered, as a grant of mercy made to us, in order to our bringing *forth fruits worthy of repentance.*

Give us grace, therefore, O Lord, not only to repent of past sins and omissions; but to make it much of the business of our remaining days, to supply the deficiencies of our former ones. May we endeavour, in full

dependance on thy grace, to be more faithful in relative duties. Let the obligations of parents, of children, of masters, and of servants, be henceforth better fulfilled. Teach us all, to show forth by our behaviour toward each other, the *praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvellous light*. May we be careful to *render unto all their dues*; and above all, let us remember what is due to thee, O blessed God, from whom we receive all our blessings, temporal, spiritual, and eternal.

O thou who hast been pleased, notwithstanding all our sins, hitherto to preserve us, vouchsafe us thy help during the remainder of our earthly course. We pray thee to be with us, to direct, and to strengthen us. Should any false light appear, suffer us not to follow it. Should the *enemy come in like a flood*, preserve us from being swept away. Thus, O Lord, be thou our light, and our strength; that we may *finish our course* well, that we may *keep the faith*, and that we may have a well-grounded hope of receiving

a *crown of righteousness*, when Christ the Lord shall appear.

We know not *what a day may bring forth;* nor need we be desirous of knowing; let it be enough for us, that without thy permisson *not a sparrow falleth.* Enable us to *cast all our care on thee.*

Grant that we may fear nothing but the unholy influence, which enjoyments or sufferings may have upon us. All power is in thine hands; be pleased to make *all things work together for our good.* Let our souls prosper by every thing which happeneth to us; whether our day be calm or stormy, bright or dark, do thou make us to increase in faith, in holiness, in humility, patience, and charity; that we may be *rich toward God*, whatever we be in other respects.

O Lord, hear these our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ our advocate. In whose name we present our thank-offerings, for the manifold mercies which we have from time to

time received. O continue thine undeserved goodness to us this night; and may we rise in the morning with a heart full of thankfulness to thee for all our blessings. Now to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

A Family Prayer for the Morning of a Sacrament Day.

WORTHY art thou, O Lord, to receive glory, and honour, and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created. By thy word are all things upheld; and to the praise of thy wisdom and goodness shall they all contribute.

However unsearchable many of thy ways be to us, O Lord, one thing is manifest; that thou art *a merciful GOD.* And we bless thy holy name, for the many ways in which thou hast been pleased to show forth thy mercy to sinful men.

Above all, would we remember that bright display of it which thou hast made, in giving

up thy beloved Son, to be a *sacrifice for our sins.* O with what humility, love, and praise, should we contemplate this profound mystery, by which *thou commendest thy love to us.!*

But alas! we are prone to be forgetful of it; we are therefore bound to be thankful for the institution of that ordinance, which recalleth our attention to a bleeding Saviour; *wounded for our transgressions,* and dying on the cross, that we might live for ever in heaven.

Now, O Lord, prepare our souls for this holy solemnity. Let us not attend it with any lightness of mind; with any gross or superstitious views; nor with that cold heart, with which an unthinking formality may send us to the Lord's table. Help us, while we partake of the signs of our Saviour's body and blood, to consider, with suitable affections, every thing which this sacred rite calleth to our remembrance.

Enable us to remember, with the deepest humility, man's fallen and lost condition by

nature, and to see and admire the *riches of that grace* by which a Deliverer was raised up for us in the person of thy dear Son. Help us to fix our eyes on him; and while we recollect, that thou didst reveal the *coming of this Just one* to thine ancient church, and didst hold forth the necessity of his death by its numerous sacrifices; let us rejoice, that thy promise is fulfilled, and that the end of all the sacrifices is accomplished, *by the offering of the body of Jesus once for all.*

We would not "approach thy Table trusting in our own righteousness," but as guilty creatures, lay our hands on the head of that spotless Lamb, whom *thou hast set forth as a propitiation* for sin. We would not go relying on our strength, but as weak and indigent creatures, to "feed by faith" on that *bread of GOD which came down from heaven*, and without which *there is no life in us.*

And while we perform these acts of faith, let them be exercised with *a contrite spirit*:

such as we ought to feel, who have so much of that guilt to charge ourselves with, which ariseth from the misimprovement of peculiar advantages and distinguishing mercies. O Lord, the more we think of thy mercy, the more aggravated do our sins appear. Our guilt is magnified by that very Gospel which showeth us how it may be removed. For how often have we disregarded that compassionate Saviour who speaketh to us therein! We are chargeable with negligence, yea with ingratitude, even towards him who *laid down his life* for us. How much therefore doth it become us to acknowledge that "our sins are "manifold!" Grant, O Lord, that we may not only own this with our lips, but confess the humbling truth with unfeigned repentance.

With these views we intreat thee to lead us to the table of our Lord; and there, though so undeserving of such favour, may our hearts be refreshed by the remembrance of his compassion, and the consideration of those wonders of power, wisdom, and grace, which shine forth in the redemption of man. There, with

all thy church, may we triumph in the *love of the Father, the grace of the Son, and the communion of the Holy Ghost.* There may we be favoured with such a sense of thy presence, as shall leave in our hearts a consoling, sanctifying, and animating impression of divine things.

O let it please thee to bless us in this duty, with the quickening influence of thy Holy Spirit; deepening every serious impression we may have received, invigorating every devout affection, and assimilating us more to Him, to whom our eyes are directed by this institution. While we live by his death, let us not forget what love to GOD, and to one another, he hath taught us by his example. And may we show that we have *received grace out of his fulness*, by a zeal for the glory of GOD; and by *putting on*, as *the elect of GOD, holy and beloved, bowels of mercy, kindness, and long-suffering.*

We pray, O Lord, that in all the services of this day, *great grace may be upon* both

ministers and people. Hear these humble requests for ourselves and others, and accept our praises, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

A Family Prayer for the Evening of a Sacrament Day.

O MOST gracious Lord, we come as a family to offer up our thanksgivings for the blessings of this day. Thou hast given to us another season of rest and instruction. Thanks be to thy holy name that these favours are still continued;—that we still have the ordinances of christian worship administered to us; and that we can go and *seek thy face* in them, unmolested by the enemies of truth and righteousness.

Would to GOD that we could say, we have attended these solemnities without any inter-

ruption from within ourselves: But this, alas! would be far from the truth. Thou sufferest no enemy from without to prevent our approach to thee; but we carry the enemies of our peace, and the hindrances to our edification, into thy house. Wandering thoughts, worldly cares, and indifference of mind, accompany us in prayer; disturb our attention to thy word; and go with us even to that Table, on which the memorials of a crucified Saviour's love are presented.

Yet, although there be these causes of humiliation on our part, such is the merciful tenour of thy holy word, that we are encouraged to look up to thee with hope, and pray for a blessing on those ordinances we have so unworthily attended. *O GOD of all grace*, be pleased to hear and answer this prayer.

We would now particularly call to mind, the opportunity we have this day had of commemorating our blessed Saviour's death. O that this solemn transaction may be made instrumental of a closer union with our adorable

Redeemer! Bless it to the increase of our faith in him, our love to him, and our rejoicing in him.

Let it not be enough for us to have felt some affectionate impressions at the table of our Lord; but let us be concerned to bear all those *fruits of the Spirit*, which his example holdeth forth to us, and by which our love to his name is best proved.

Deeply affected by seeing what it cost our Redeemer to make atonement for our sins, may we henceforth make it more our care to be *cleansed from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and to perfect holiness in the fear of GOD.*

"Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour" likewise "into our hearts that most excellent gift of "charity, the very bond of peace, and of all "virtues; without which, whosoever liveth is "counted dead before thee." Let not us, who have been contemplating a Saviour laying down his life for us, want *bowels and mercies* for others. Influenced by the grace

shown to us, may we be ready to employ every talent with which thou hast endowed us, for the good of others. Let us not perform the offices of charity with constraint; but *gladly* meet every opportunity which thy providence may afford us of imitating Him who said, *It is more blessed to give than to receive.* On such occasions may we show, how deeply his unwearied labours and bitter agony endured for us, have imprinted his benevolent maxim on our hearts.

And while we thus show forth the power of our Saviour's grace, raising us above the sensual and selfish tendency of our fallen nature, may we bow with the deepest humilty before thee. Let us likewise in all our conversation with men, behave as becometh those who have nothing to glory of in themselves, but who owe all their hopes, their holiness, and their happiness, to thee.

In our passage through life, O Lord, enable us ever to keep in view the *death* we have been *showing forth*; and let the remembrance of it fortify our minds against the

snares of the world. Let the love of GOD therein manifested, be our support and our consolation, under all the trials through which we may have to pass. Ever remembering that *He who spared not his own Son for us will with him* assuredly *give us all things* that are needful, let *our conversation be without covetousness.* And let us learn from him who *took the form of a servant, and humbled himself to the death of the cross,* to acquiesce in thy providential appointments, whatever be the condition allotted to us.

O send forth the light of that *glorious gospel,* from which we derive all these important and sanctifying views; that thousands, and tens of thousands of the children of men may share with us in the knowledge of Christ, and partake of all the blessings of his Kingdom.

Enable us to retire to rest with a deep sense of thy mercy in bestowing this light upon us. Encouraged by it, we commit ourselves, and all who are dear to us, to thy providential care this night. Lord grant these our humble requests, for the sake of Jesus Christ our me-

diator and advocate; to whom with Thyself, and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

A Prayer to be used on the Day on which a Child is to be Baptized.

O LORD of life and salvation, who hast been pleased to ordain, that those who enter into thy church shall be baptized with water; behold us, now about to attend to this injuction, and enable us to perform the duty, on our part, with every proper disposition of mind.

We would be filled with thankfulness, O Lord, that not only we, but our children, even in their tender years, are admitted to a state of communion with thee. With a due sense of this thy mercy, would we bring our dear child to the holy ordinance of Baptism.

O look upon *him*, and bestow on *him* every blessing, for the conveyance of which this sacrament was ordained. We present *him* to thee, O Lord, that *he* may be cleansed in that fountain which thou hast opened in our Saviour's blood, for purifying us from the defilement with which our nature is polluted. We bring *him* to thee, that *he* may be regenerated, by the grace of thy Holy Spirit. We believe, that these are the ends which we should seek in this duty; and we trust, that we shall not seek them in vain.

And give us grace, O Lord, if the life of our child be spared, to follow this act, with the diligent use of every means in our power which tendeth to teach *him*, what thou hast done for *his* salvation, and how *he* must live in order finally to be received into thy church in Heaven. Grant that our prayers, and our instructions, and our example, may all combine to promote *his* growth in christian knowledge, faith, and obedience.

Hear us, O gracious Lord, further requesting, that it may please thee to give us

an early proof, that thou hast blessed our endeavours. Let our hearts be made to rejoice, in seeing the marks of grace accompanying the advancement of reason. Let a reverence of thee be seen in *him*, in the days of childhood; and a decided piety, in the days of youth. Suffer *him* not to give any portion of *his* uncertain life, to sinful or vain courses; but taking *his* Saviour's yoke, as soon as it is possible to understand that obligation, *may he be glad and rejoice* in him, *all his days.*

Thus, O Lord, enable him to live; and when *his* end shall come, may he close *his* days, believing in that God, to whom *he* is now to be dedicated; and prepared for that eternal joy, which is the end of all the ordinances thou hast appointed in thy church.

Grant, O most good and merciful God, that we, and the children thou mayest give to us, may live together in christian love and peace: rejoicing in our Saviour; and taking comfort in the faith and piety of each other toward thee, our common *Father in heaven.*

And may our example, as a family, be compleat. Make us attentive to every civil and social, as well as to every religious duty; that *the doctrine of God our Saviour may be adorned in all things.*

Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Mediator and Redeemer; to whom with Thee, and the Holy Ghost, be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

A Prayer to be used, either in a private Family, or in a School, on the Day on which any of its Members are going to partake of the Rite of Confirmation.

O GOD of all grace, we thank thee for that useful Rite which calleth those who have been dedicated to thee in Baptism, to consider its obligations, and to ratify the sacred

covenant, by their own deliberate act, when they have come to years of discretion.

We humbly pray thee, to look upon those of our family, who are now about to receive this holy Rite. Teach them, O Lord, to approach thee in this duty with great seriousness of mind; and with the sincerest desires of fulfilling the obligations, which they are now to take upon themselves.

But grant, O Lord, that they may not purpose this, in a reliance on themselves; but with a humble dependance on that gracious assistance, which thou hast promised to bestow upon all who sincerely pray for it.

Suffer none of them to think, that their attendance on this holy Rite, or on any other of the ordinances of the Church, will be accepted by thee, in the stead of their own constant endeavours to *grow in grace*, and to be made meet for heaven. Yet, O Lord, enable them to trust in thee, that the grace of thy Holy Spirit will be granted to them

in this ordinance, if they from their hearts desire this inestimable gift; and that it will be continued to them, if the duty they are now going to discharge, be followed by stedfastness in thy service.

With this devout mind, this humility, and these hopes, may they now draw near to thee. And do thou be pleased to accept them; and give them such a sense of thy good-will toward them, and especially of thy mercy in Christ Jesus, as shall make them account that blessing which thy minister shall ask for them, the richest portion they can obtain in this life.

We pray thee, O Lord, to give a lasting blessing to the instruction administered to them, during their preparation for this solemn Rite. Grant that they may endeavour to be more and more grounded in the articles of the Christian Faith. Grant likewise, that increasing knowledge may be accompanied with all its holy fruits.

And that their future life may thus consist with the christian duty they are now

about to discharge, guard them from those *who lie in wait to deceive;* protect them from the dangers incident to youth; bless them with good advisers and faithful guides; and *make all things work together for their good.* Thus enabled to continue faithful followers of Him who lived and died for them, may they at length be received among thy saints in glory.

These blessings for them, and all others, who are going to partake of the same holy Rite, we ask, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

A Prayer to be used on the Day in which one of the Family has entered into the Marriage State.

O LORD GOD, who hast taught us in thy holy word, to *acknowledge thee in all our*

ways; we draw near to thee, to implore thy blessing on the important transaction which hath taken place in our family this day.

Thou didst institute the Marriage-Union for our good. But as the frailty of our nature doth in this, as well as in other things, frequently turn that which was ordained for our happiness, into a cause of misery; we would commend the New Married Pair to thy gracious regard: for thou art able to preserve them from every thing which would rob them of the comforts and benefits of that state of life, on which they have entered.

We pray thee to keep them from ever relaxing in that mutual attention, which they have hitherto practised. May they to the last of their continuance together, take delight in giving pleasure to each other.

If there be in either of them, any natural infirmity of temper, by which the due warmth of their affection may be in danger of decreasing; grant that they may be watchful over themselves, with respect to that infirmity.

And that there may be a carefulness to to avoid faults, and at the same time, a readiness to bear them with undiminished affection; we earnestly pray, that thy grace may daily acquire an increasing power over their hearts.

May they reverence that holy word of thine, which teacheth them their respective duties; and discharge those duties with thankfulness to thee, for having shown them the way to be a blessing to each other. And grant, O Lord, that they may be mutually beneficial, not only by discharging the peculiar duties of their respective provinces; but likewise in the common concerns of religion. May the salvation of the one, be ever near the heart of the other; and may they walk hand in hand, as followers of their Saviour: helping each other forward, in the path of christian faith and piety.

* [If it should be thy pleasure, O Lord, to give them children, may they attend to

* The paragraph between the brackets may be omitted, if the age of the New-married Pair render it improper.

their religious instruction, not in a superficial way, but with all the care and diligence which so great a concern requireth. And let thy blessing attend such endeavours, that their children may be preserved from the dangers, both of bad example and erroneous doctrines.]

Give them grace to exercise a religious care for their household; and be pleased to succeed it, to the everlasting good of every one dwelling under their roof.

O do thou preserve them from the troubles which many suffer, through those of their own household. But if affliction, either from this or any other cause befal them, support them during the trial; enable them to show forth those christian tempers, which ought to appear in their conduct; and to make the blessed effects of true religion manifest to every one.

And above all, we pray thee, to afford them thy gracious assistance, in the hour of separation. Let the departing member of

the family be blessed with the consolations of christianity; and the survivors be resigned to thy will, and comforted with the hope of eternal life.

In the mean time, grant unto us, O Lord, the comfort of seeing that thou hast blessed this union; and may we receive the tokens of it, with thankfulness to Thee, the prime source of all our enjoyments.

These mercies we ask, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

PRAYERS,

Which may be added to any of the preceding Morning and Evening Prayers.

In a Time of Scarcity.

WE humbly pray thee, O Lord, to regard our land in mercy, at this time of scarcity. Be pleased to look upon the distresses of the poor, and afford relief to them in thine own good time. Grant, O Lord, that this trying dispensation of thy providence may be sanctified to them, by bringing them to regard thee in all their affairs. Teach them to *labour for the meat which endureth unto everlasting life*, and which Jesus will give to them who apply to him for it.

May the present difficulties have a good effect on all the inhabitants of this land. O that thy judgments may bring our sins to re-

membrance! May we be so humbled under the sense of our transgressions, as to justify thee, and condemn ourselves. May we learn by all the trials which befal us here, that this world *is not our rest*. And may we have grace to seek after a meetness for that blessed state, to which thou wilt hereafter conduct all thy faithful servants.

In a Time of War.

O most holy God, to whom all things are known, and who hast wise reasons for permitting every event which taketh place in the world; give us grace to *humble ourselves under thy mighty hand.* Take away from us, we beseech thee, all hardness of heart. Cause us seriously to reflect on the miseries of war; and to obey that awful voice which now *calleth us to weeping and to supplication.* Sanctify to us the solemn situation into which our sinful passions have brought us; that we may not only *call upon thy holy name*, but *put away the evils* which provoke thy righteous displeasure.

O merciful God, though we be chastised, let us not be forsaken by thee. Give wisdom, we humbly beseech thee, to those who manage our public affairs; that they may discern, and adopt, the best measures that can be pursued at this time; and do thou be pleased to give success to them.

But let our eyes be directed to Thee, and suffer us not *to trust in an arm of flesh.* Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and remove that sore judgment with which we are now visited; that both we, and all the nations which suffer in this war, may again enjoy the blessing of peace.

Thanks be to thy name, O God of all grace, for the prospect of a better state. O that the sins and miseries of this world, may serve to wean our hearts from it, and to make us the humble and faithful followers of that Saviour, who hath "opened the kingdom of "heaven to all believers."

In a Time of severe Frost.

Teach us, O Lord, to stand in awe of that mighty power which now preventeth the waters from flowing. Be mercifully pleased to set bounds to the duration of the present severe weather; that we may not be punished by it to the degree, of which our sins render us deserving. Look down in pity, O Lord, on the poor. Open the hearts and hands of those who are able to help them; that their distresses may be lightened. And may the sufferings which the poor, and the aged, feel at this time, be made useful to their souls, by causing them to *call upon God in this day of their trouble.*

In a Time of Drought, or of excessive Rain.

O Lord God, from whom alone cometh *our daily bread,* have compassion on us, and appear for the relief of thine unworthy creatures, by giving to us seasonable weather for the fruits of the earth. *The sun, O Lord, is*

thine; the rain is thine; thou canst make either of them an instrument of supplying the wants of a people, or a rod to punish them for their sins. O God, we humbly implore thee, in the name of Jesus Christ, to have mercy on our land, and preserve the labours of the husbandman from being destroyed. And if thou shouldest be pleased to grant this prayer, O suffer us not to forget thy mercies, nor fail to follow prayer with

On the Return of Plenty.

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, for graciously regarding the distresses of the poor, by affording us a greater plenty of the necessaries of life. O Lord, though our sins are great, yet *thy compassions fail not.* Thy chastisements are removed; but it is not because we have deserved the removal of them, but because it is "thy nature and property "ever to have mercy and to forgive." O let thy *goodness lead us to repentance!* And since thou hast sent food, send us also the

grace of thy Holy Spirit; that we may thankfully remember that God, who relieved us in the time of necessity.

And O gracious Lord, may we duly consider, that *man liveth not by bread alone.* May we be desirous of those blessings, which thy word setteth before us, as necessary to our souls. We bless thee, O Lord, for having provided for their everlasting well-being. O may we hunger after the bread of life; that our souls may live, and praise thy name for ever and ever.

On the Return of Peace.

O Lord God, who hast now given unto us the blessing of peace, enable us to yield humble and hearty thanks to thee, for removing that dreadful scourge, with which we were, of late, deservedly punished. Suffer us not, O Lord, to provoke thee by our sins, to give us up again to the desolations of war: but may we live to thee, who hast been

graciously pleased to put a stop to the effusion of human blood.

And now, O Lord, that the earth is quiet, grant that thy *word may run and be glorified.* May the knowledge of thy truth prevail, and the force of those divine principles contained in the gospel, be felt every where; that *wars may cease in the world,* and that righteousness, as well as peace, may flourish among all nations.

And be graciously pleased, O Lord, to enable us, like faithful followers of Jesus, to resist sin, and Satan, unto death; that we may be admitted into that kingdom of peace, into which all thy true servants shall hereafter enter.

On a favourable Change of Weather.

We bless thy holy name, most gracious Lord, for the present seasonable change of weather. O that we may long remember thy goodness, and show forth our thankfulness,

not in words only, but in obedience to thy holy will. And while we pray, that we may be always thankful for temporal mercies; we pray likewise, that we may not neglect the better blessings which thou hast provided for us in Jesus Christ. O kindle in our hearts an ardent desire after them; that we may obtain them, and that *when flesh and heart shall fail* (as ere long they will) we may rejoice in *God; as our portion for ever.*

For the Master of a Family when he is abroad.

O Lord God, who art every where present, be pleased to bless thy servant, the master of this family, during his absence from home. Preserve him from wicked men, from dangerous diseases, from sinful temptations, and all other evils, bodily or spiritual, to which he may be exposed. We humbly pray thee, O Lord, to conduct him, by thy gracious providence, to his house again in peace. And make both him and us thankful, for thy mercies toward each other. Hear, O merciful God, his prayers for us, and ours for him.

And may we so live together here, as to do honour to religion, by showing how the fear and love of thy name doth regulate and sweeten society *.

* The same prayer by changing the word *him* for *her*, may be used when the mistress of the family is from home.

PRAYERS,

To be used with Individuals under particular Circumstances.

To be used with a Woman, during the Time of Childbearing

MOST blessed Lord, "the helper of all "who flee to thee for succour," look mercifully upon thy handmaid, and protect her from all things that may be hurtful to her in her present circumstances. Be pleased to support her under all the infirmities she may feel. Grant, O Lord, that she may be brought safely through the hour of difficulty. Give her grace, we beseech thee, to commit herself to thee, and to *stay herself* upon thy power and mercy.

May the anxieties which she feeleth concerning the issue of her present condition, lead

her to attend seriously to the care of her soul and to seek earnestly for a well-grounded hope of salvation; that she may be prepared for all events, and may have the warrant of thy word to expect thy presence, and thy help, in all situations. If it please thee, O Lord, may she be the joyful mother of a living child. And may that child be one of the happy number of those, who sincerely serve thee in this world, and shall live with thee in the world to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

To be used with a Woman after being safely delivered in Child-birth.

O most merciful God, we would be thankful to thee for thy compassionate regard to thy handmaid, to whom thou hast granted a safe delivery in the hour of child-birth. Fill her heart with thankfulness for what thou hast done for her; and let her soul *magnify the Lord her Saviour*, for continuing her yet among the living. Enable her, O Lord, to depend on thee, for her perfect restoration to health and strength. May the remembrance of thy late

mercy to her, lead her to give herself up anew to that gracious God, who helped her in the trying hour; and may she earnestly pray, that the life which he hath spared, may be spent in following her Saviour more faithfully than ever.

Let these Words be added if the Child be living.

And if it please thee, that the child which thou hast given to her should live to be capable of receiving instruction, enable her, O Lord, to "train *him* up in the way, in "which *he* should go." Like a christian mother, may she be careful to provide for the welfare of *his* soul, and make it her chief business to teach *him* the *excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus her Lord.* Bless her instructions to *him*; hear her prayers for *him*; enable her to hold forth a good example to *him*; and may both parent and child so walk together on earth, as to meet in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with the Father, and the Holy Ghost,

be all honour and glory, for'ever and ever. Amen.

To be used with a Sick Person.

O Lord God of our Salvation, how miserable would our condition be, had we not Thee to look to in a time of trouble. Forgive that folly, through which we are so unmindful of thee in the day of prosperity. We would give thanks to thee, for awakening our minds to the consideration of God and religion; even though it be done by a severe stroke of affliction. We ought to account it a mercy to be brought to seriousness, and to prayer, whatever be the methods which thou mayest be pleased to take for this purpose.

O Lord, we find that although we can live regardless of thee in times of prosperity, we cannot support adversity without thy help: then we find how wretched a condition it is, not to have God for our friend. O sanctify that discovery, that it may effectually cure us of our forgetfulness of God;—that it may cause us to return to thee with our whole

heart;—and that we may never more forsake thee, *the fountain of living waters.*

Look, O Lord, we humbly beseech thee, upon *him* who lieth upon this bed of sickness, and make this visitation of thy providence beneficial to *him*. O may it be accompanied with such mercy, such grace to *his* soul, that *he* may have reason to all eternity to say, that it was *good for him to be afflicted*. May *he* in this confinement learn, and be duly affected with those great and blessed truths of thy word, which none of us regard with sufficient attention in the hours of ease and health. O that *he* may savingly learn, that there is nothing so much to be desired as an interest in thy favour;—that there is no hope for sinful man, but in the mercy of God;—that sin is the greatest evil—holiness the greatest good—and that Christ is the only refuge for a guilty soul.

We humbly intreat thee, O heavenly Father, that if it be consistent with thy will, *he* may be raised up again; and that *he* may be yet continued among us, living a godly and comfortable life; happy in *himself*, and a

blessing to those with whom *he* is connected. May it please thee to moderate *his* sufferings. Do thou direct us to the best methods for *his* relief, and be mercifully pleased to give success to them. May *he* patiently submit to what *he* may have to bear; and under the sharpest pains which *he* may endure, enable *him* to adore and bless thee, for not dealing with *him according to* the full desert of *his sins*.

But what we most of all request is, that this affliction may be accompanied with the grace of thy Holy Spirit; that true repentance, a lively faith in Christ, and an ardent desire after holiness, may be wrought in *his* heart. Hear this prayer for *him*, O Lord, that *he* may be made fit either to live or to die; so that whatever be the issue of this sickness, it may end in the glory of thy name, and be made to contribute to the good of *his* soul.

And, O Lord, teach us, who are in health, to profit by what we see others suffer. Let the sight of an afflicted fellow-creature, fill us with thankfulness for the comforts we at present enjoy, and excite us to provide

against the hour of trial that may one day come upon ourselves. O may we *seek thee while thou art to be found.* May we seriously attend to the voice of Christ; and like Mary, *choose that good part, which shall never be taken from us.*

These mercies for our afflicted *brother*, and for ourselves, we humby ask in the name, and through the mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to whom with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed endless praises. Amen.

If this Prayer be deemed too long for the Patient, the following shorter one may be used in its stead.

O thou who dost not *willingly afflict, nor grieve the children of men*, be pleased to look down with compassion upon this poor sufferer, and sanctify *his* present affliction to *him.* Be pleased to support *him* under all that *he* may have to endure; and make the want of ease, of rest, and other comforts of health, so beneficial to his better part, the soul, that

he may have reason hereafter to say, that *it was good for him to be afflicted.*

We pray thee to give *him* grace to submit to thy will, and may all *his* complaints be silenced by the remembrance of *his* sins. O Lord, if it seem good unto thee, give success to our endeavours for *his* recovery.. And accompany thy blessing on the means of health, with that still greater blessing, the grace of thy Holy Spirit; that in the days of returning strength *he* may live the life of a *new creature.* O forgive *his* sins; give *him* grace to repent of them; and may the sincerity of *his* repentance be made manifest by *his denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts.*

We beg that, if it be consistent with thy will, *his* life may be spared; but if this illness should prove to be a *sickness unto death,* O Lord, prepare *him* for the awful change which awaiteth *him.* Suffer *him* not, we most humbly beseech thee, to be called hence, till *he* savingly *know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou didst* in mercy send into the world, *to save sinners.* Hear us, O

Lord, for the sake of thy dear Son, to whom with Thyself, and Holy Spirit, be everlasting praises ascribed. Amen.

To be used with one, who appears to be at the Point of Death.

O most gracious God, since thy throne of grace is still open to us, we humbly beg to be heard in behalf of our *brother*, who is now brought down to the gates of the grave. O Lord, we have done with praying for *his* life; all that we have to request is, that thou wouldest succour *him* in this trying hour, and fit *him* for the great change that is about to take place.

Forgive, O merciful Lord, all *his* transgressions, for the sake of that blessed Saviour, who shed his blood for the *remission of sins.* May *his* last moments be spent in penitence and faith. O may *his* soul be with thee, whenever it shall be separated from the body; and may *he* be supported under what *he* now

suffereth, by a well-grounded hope of being soon joined to the church in heaven.

Permit us, *O God of all comfort*, to request that *his* passage out of time into eternity, may be easy. O let not *his* bodily pains be extreme, nor *his* mind be oppressed with doubts and fears. Take away, O Lord, *the bitterness of death*, by giving *him* a foretaste of the glory of heaven. But above all we beg, that, suffer whatever *he* may in this hour, either in body or mind, *his* precious soul may be saved. O grant us this request, even should it seem good unto thee, not to bestow the other blessings which we have asked for our poor departing *brother*.

And O have mercy on the living, as well as the dying; and teach us, by every instance of mortality, *so to number our days, as to apply our hearts unto wisdom*. All which we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, thy dear Son, our Lord, *in whom may we be found*, living and dying. Amen.

To be used with a Person, who is recovering from Sickness.

O Almighty God, who art able to bring down the strongest, and to raise up the weakest, we bless thy holy name for the favourable appearances which have taken place in the condition of our *brother*. O perfect what thou hast begun, and give *him*, and us, reason to praise thee as the God of Salvation. Teach *him* to lift np *his* heart to thee, and to pray, that life may not only be continued, but that it may be better employed than it hath been heretofore. May this desire be now most earnestly felt; and O let it not grow faint when health and strength return, but may it increase in *him* the longer he liveth.

Teach *him*, O Lord, to profit, with respect to the body, by what *he* hath of late suffered; may *he* learn to guard against all things, which may endanger *his* health. And teach *him*, O God, to guard with still greater care, against whatever may endanger the welfare of *his* soul. O may *he* now be enabled to live a life of watchfulness and prayer. Suffer

him not to trust to the most solemn resolutions which *he* may now seriously make, but to thy grace, for *his* perseverance in well-doing: looking to thee with humble confidence for that help, which thou art ready to afford to all those, who seek for it in the name of thy dear Son.

We humbly intreat thee to be with *him*, all through the remainder of life. Let *him* not forget, that although *he* is now recovering from sickness, the time will come when medicines will fail, and *he must go to the grave, the house appointed for all living*. O enable *him* henceforward to follow Christ in faith, purity, and humility; that when the time *of his* departure hence shall come, *he* may have reason to rejoice in it, as the hour of complete deliverance from all sin, and all suffering.

Hear us, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate, to whom with the Father, and Holy Spirit, be glory and honour, for ever and ever. Amen.

A PRAYER

Relating to the present Times.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast called us to behold thee scourging, in thy just displeasure, many of the nations of the earth; we would adore thee for thy mercy to our land, in having hitherto visited us with a lighter punishment, than hath been suffered by other nations.

But, O Lord, as the rod of judgment is still over us, and we know not what may be the end of those things which are now passing in the world; we earnestly beseech thee, to give us such a thoughtfulness of mind, as becometh a christian nation in so extraordinary a period of time.

O grant that all, and especially those whom thou hast placed in public stations, either of Church or State, may seriously consider, wherefore it is, that after so much

blood and treasure expended to avert the evils which threaten us, there yet seemeth no sign of their removal.

And since we are taught by thy word, that sin bringeth down judgments upon a people, and that thou in mercy takest them away, if repentance ensueth; grant that we may seek the removal of thy judgements, by repenting of what is evil in ourselves; and by an earnest endeavour to promote christian faith and piety in our respective provinces; whether much or little be entrusted to us.

We pray, O Lord, not only that those who live in the entire neglect of religion, may be brought to repentance and amendment; but that those who are of better character, may be preserved, in *this day of rebuke*, from all lukewarmness in their christian profession.

And grant, O Lord, that the earnestness of those who are sincerely pious, may not be suffered to spend itself upon uncertain things, or upon any thing else which might divert

their attention from the duties peculiarly incumbent on them, in this momentous period.

We humbly pray, O God of all grace, that amidst the anxieties we feel in this day of awful visitation, the prosperity of the Church may be our greatest subject of concern. O let not Infidelity be suffered to extend its deadly influence among men. And do thou not only preserve the profession of Christianity in the world, but pour forth the grace of thy Holy Spirit on all who profess it; that they may shew forth a greater zeal in its cause, and adorn it by a more holy example.

O grant that the days of peace may return; and with them, abundance of grace; that the long-desired blessing may be improved to its best purposes. But if it should not yet be thy will to put an end to the *distress of Nations*, we earnestly pray thee to show mercy to afflicted Individuals; by making the sufferings which they have to endure in this life, the means of their *looking for that*

blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Finally we request, that thou wouldest still continue to afford in this favoured land, a refuge from *the fury of the Oppressor*. And grant, that we to whom others flee for safety, may have a lively sense of thy mercy in preserving this blessing to us. Make us all sensible of what we owe to thee, for our quietness at home; for the ininterrupted administration of the means of grace; and the blessings of civil and religious liberty, possessed to a degree scarcely any where else known.

Give us grace to make such a diligent use of these blessings, as to be daily improving in faith, holiness, charity, and all other christian virtues; that whatever be the events, which in thy righteous providence thou mayest permit to take place in the world, or however they may affect us in our temporal circumstances, our souls may hereafter be received into thy heavenly Kingdom.

These mercies we ask in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; through whose mediation we hope for them, and to whom with thyself, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

A PRAYER

To be used by a Mother with her Children, before they begin their daily Tasks.

O LORD GOD, who hast been pleased to give me these dear children, let me begin the day with them, by offering up my thanksgivings for their preservation during the last night. Make them thankful that they have a mother to take care of them; as I desire to be, that my children are continued to me.

And now, O Lord, let thy blessing be both upon me and them, in the employments on which they are about to enter. Direct and prosper me, in that which ought to be my first and principal endeavour, the training them in the knowledge and fear of thy name.

Dispose their minds toward every thing that is good; and grant, that in due time I may see them faithfully following the word

and example of their Saviour; serving thee their God with delight, dutiful to their parents, reverencing all that are in authority, kind to their equals, condescending to their inferiors, compassionate to the afflicted, zealous to do good, improving in all christian dispositions, and looking forward to thy heavenly kingdom, as the consummation of their warmest hopes and desires.

May it please thee, O Lord, to endue them with such a measure of capacity for learning whatever is taught them, as thou mayest see it good for them to possess. And may they have grace to use every acquirement, in such a way, as may most conduce to the real benefit of themselves, and others.

All which blessings I humbly ask, in the the name of thy dear Son, our only Saviour, who lived and died for us, and who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

A FAMILY LITURGY.

N. B. The words in the larger Roman character, are to be read by the master of the Family only, but all are to join audibly in the words which are printed in *Italics*.

All standing up, the Master of the Family shall begin as followeth:

GOD, who made all things, and who preserveth all things, hath brought us safe to the morning or evening of this day. We are assembled, to acknowledge, with thankfulness, the blessings which we have received; to ask for the forgiveness of our sins, through the mediation of Jesus Christ; and humbly to pray for the continuation of God's goodness to us through the day or night ensuing.

Let us recollect that we are now approaching the Searcher of all hearts; and may the

consideration of his awful majesty, and fatherly goodness, cause us to address him with reverence, humility, and thankfulness.

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Here let a PSALM or HYMN be sung.

After which, all being seated, the Master shall distinctly read

A PORTION OF HOLY SCRIPTURE.

After the portion of Holy Scripture is read, let all kneel down, while the Master offereth up this short prayer.

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard, may through thy grace be so grafted in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of holy living, to the honour and praise of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
And grant us thy salvation.

O [illegible] King;,
And [illegible] hear us when we call upon
t

[illegible] thy ministers with righteousness;
[illegible] thy chosen people joyful.

[illegible], make clean our hearts within us;
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Then followeth THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER for the day.

After which, let all join in the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation: but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Let all continue on their knees, for a few minutes, that each one may silently lift up his heart to God, and beg the Divine blessing.

NOTE.

IT would be quite foreign to the design of this publication, to enter upon a defence of Liturgical worship. But to the members of the Church of England, whose public worship is liturgical, I cannot but recommend the adoption of that mode of worship in their families; inasmuch as it would habituate their domestics to such attentions to the minuter parts of our church service, as would contribute greatly to the solemnity of the whole. The spirit of our worship is in a great measure lost, for want of the audible concurrence of the congregation, in the responses. There can be no doubt, that more attention is paid to those parts of the service than there appears; many, and those some of the most devout worshippers, joining in them silently: but not being audibly rehearsed, they seem to be left entirely to the clerk. The consequence of this is, that our worship sinks into a heavy and spiritless performance, and a general list-

lessness is observed to prevail in the assembly, long before the service is ended.

We are informed, that in the churches of the early Christians, there was so universal and so audible a concurrence of the worshippers, in the responses, that the uttering them resembled the sound of thunder. It is much to be wished, that such a lively attention to the service were observable in our churches. We should then appear much more like an assembly of people adoring the great and glorious Creator, than we do. To this grand, majestic, and impressive effect, every person should be excited to contribute his part.

One thing, perhaps, which is a cause of our inattention to the shorter sentences of the public liturgy, is, the people being so entirely unused to any thing of the kind, in the intervals which occur between the Sundays. If this be a cause of inattention, the use of a Family Liturgy may be of service; as thereby our domestics may be trained by the worship which is practised at home, to join in the service of the church. But in order to its

answering this end, the master of the family should be observant of a rule suggested to him in the discourse on Family Religion; namely, to teach his domestics to join in those parts of worship which are allotted to them.

Besides the good effect which a family liturgy may have on the public worship, it seems, independent of that effect, to be an eligible mode of family worship. Giving our domestics a part to sustain in the worship, may serve to give life to a service, which is apt to be accounted, by young people, a dull employment. It may help to fix their attention, and to impress them with this important consideration, namely, that Religion is a business in which every individual ought to be engaged.

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†+† The Reader is requested to observe, that where more than one prayer is referred to, the first will be found more appropriate to the occasion, than the following; and that a slight alteration will be sufficient to convert a Morning into an Evening Prayer, or an Evening into a Morning Prayer.

When a prayer suited to some particular occasion is desired, let the prayer to which the Index directs the enquirer, be privately read through, before it is used with the family; in order to see, where any additional part applicable to the occasion in view, should be introduced, and what ought to be omitted.

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